

MARCH 1902

VOL XIV NO 5 M.N. 161

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

Devoted to Art, Literature, Science, and the Home Circle.

NEW YORK

AUGUSTA, MAINE.

BOSTON

Copyright, 1902, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.

Incorporated.



Design Copyrighted 1902, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



Telling one of Comfort's Prize Stories.

PRIZE STORIES.

The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be easier for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least four yearly subscriptions together with 25 cents to pay for each subscriber so sent may compete for the prizes.

All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address, with name of place if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in an envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB care of COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

All stories must be strictly original with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction, adventure, love, war, history or country life, or of experiences of land or sea—but the story must contain more than 2,000 or less than 1,000 words.

No MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMPETITORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.

From \$5 to \$20 will be paid for stories, and remittances will be sent by check as soon as awards have been made.

No premium will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Short Story Prize Offer.

The Publishers of "Comfort" reserve the right to purchase at their established rates any stories submitted under the foregoing offer, which failed to secure a prize.

Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may at the end of 90 days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR MARCH.

Holman F. Day, First Prize.

M. B. Thrasher, Second Prize.

Geo. H. Smith, Third Prize.

Herman Gray, Fourth Prize.

Elizabeth Orr Williams, Fifth Prize.

Cupid and Cap. Gregg.

The Episode of Love's Ambassador. Being Episode Number 2.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HOLMAN F. DAY.

Copyright, 1902, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.

SYNOPSIS.

[Capt. Skote Gregg, skipper of a coasting packet drops into Newport Harbor on one of his trips and visits his cousins. During the evening he meets one of their neighbors, a fascinating widow, who seems considerably impressed by the honest mariner. The skipper is a bachelor, but he has been engaged for more than thirty years to a spinster down at his home, a patient woman who has resolved that she will care for her old parents so long as they live, and will not marry. Several months after meeting the widow the skipper stops again at Newport and shows the amiable woman so much attention that his cousin's wife—staunchly devoted to the earlier attachment of the skipper—vows that she will write home and tell all about his foolishness if he doesn't remember his vows. But the skipper is smitten hard and on his next trip determines to stop at Newport and see the widow by stealth, even though she lives next door to his cousin. The crew and cook of the schooner—all comprised in one boy—is much offended at this decision of the skipper who hints that he may remain several days. The "crew" is impatient to get home to his own love, and the notion of delay tortures him. He rebels when the skipper orders him on shore to do an errand, but by threats the captain obliges him to do his bidding. They lower the yawl over the side and the "crew" rows the love-sick skipper to the Newport dock.]

EVENING sky was purple and a paring of moon hung in the west. Skipper Skote Gregg leaned back in the yawl's stern, straddling his legs so that the swishing bilge water wouldn't wet his Sunday best trousers. He looked up at the moon and at the stars thrusting through the mellow haze and felt romantic. People usually feel romantic when they are at Newport.

"Beautiful ev'nin', hain't it, Seth?" murmured the skipper.

"Good enough," growled Seth, who was rowing stolidly. He was thinking how this evening would seem if he were down on Cove Ledge in Hobbs Harbor, looking out across the trail of the moon on the sea and then looking into the Sims girl's bright eyes. He gritted his teeth at the reflection.

"How long do ye p'tend ye're goin' to stay here this trip?" asked Seth, finding it difficult to speak to the skipper without swearing at him. The captain pushed the pasteboard frame of his made-up bow more firmly up under his collar and said calmly:

"It sort of depends, Seth."

"I should think ye'd be in some hurry to git this cargo back home," urged Seth. "You know when we sailed for York, Burkett said he was most out of flour and bran middlin's."

"Wal, flour and bran middlin's hain't the only thing there is in this world, Seth," remarked the skipper dreamily.

"And the Susan P. Gregg won't be the only packet on between Hobbs Harbor and New York unless we git round some time 'ruther with the things people are waitin' for." Seth's tone was distinctly indignant.

"Look here, ye freckled young shrimp," roared the skipper, "are ye tryin' to boss me 'round? I'll throw ye overboard in about ha' jiffy."

Seth pulled at his oars and made no reply.

"What do you mean by bracin' up to me in such a sassy way?" demanded Capt. Skote.

"I was only sayin' what I thought," said the boy. "It's more for your good than mine. Longer ye be on the way the more pay I git. But tain't the same way with the folks who are waitin' for goods."

"Yas, I know about who it is that's waitin' for goods 't you're thinkin' about," said the skipper drily. "There's a bale of live veal that's consigned to the Sims girl that ye're thinkin' about mostly. That veal will reach her in damaged condition if ye hain't more careful about how ye talk back to me."

There was silence. Seth had no reply. The skipper after a little pause went on.

"I see ye are pretty ugly and set about this matter, Seth and perhaps ye are thinkin' that when ye git back to Hobbs Harbor ye will blow the thing out of revenge. Are ye thinkin' in that, Seth?"

"I hain't thought nothin' about it," replied Seth suddenly.

"I know ye've got it in your mind," said the skipper, "and ye're mad enough to shoot your mouth off—I know that. I've offered to help you along in your matter all friendly like and I'll do it, Seth. But if ye play me dirty I'll do the same for you and when I start in ye'll wish ye hadn't."

They ran the yawl far up a dock between long wharves and scrambled to the plank walk that led to the street. They walked far up town in silence. The dark had come down and the skipper dodged the patches of light thrown by the street arc lamps. Finally Capt. Gregg halted by the corner of a shrubbery-bordered lawn. "Her house is the second one up that first street to the right," he explained to Seth. "I'm goin' to wait here."

"Now for your sailin' orders! Ye understand, Seth, that if my cousin's folks know I'm in the place or am callin' on the widder they'll make a lot of trouble. They're messy folks, that's what they are. They want to run things in Hobbs Harbor jest the same's though they lived there yet."

"Now I want you to lay 'longside the widder's door and give her a hail for me. Find out if the coast's clear and if it is and she hain't got company from-round the neighborhood that would be li'ble to blow on me, jest tell her that Cap'n Gregg will do himself the honor of callin' to pass the time of day. There! How's that sound?"

Seth started away without response. His face in the faint light from a distant lamp hung at the jaws as sulky as a bull-pup's visage.

"Hold on a minute," ordered the skipper. "In case it happens that any one else comes to the door and you can't see the widder don't let on who sent ye. There might have something happened in four months so that she hain't to home or somethin' else, ye never can tell what. I'll wait for ye at the end of this street, for I'll keep movin' so's not to attract suspicion."

Seth shambled away. "Now mind," cautioned the skipper huskily, "don't give away nothin' to any one except the widder."

He watched the youth until he had turned into the street he had indicated. He saw him turn up the path toward the house and then Cap. Gregg went scuffing down the dark street, at the head of which he had been standing. He was determined to observe all caution. Five minutes passed. His nerves were in a quiver of expectation that was almost apprehension. Who could tell what might have happened to the widow in four months?

She might be receiving attentions from some other man! The thought made his heart drop like the plummet lead. He blamed himself now because he had conducted his wooing so leisurely and in such an indefinite manner. He realized that a man who has been engaged to be married for thirty years is not likely to realize that Cupid has wings. He takes too much for granted. He has looked on woman as a landmark, always there every time the sun rises. That was the way with Sophy, his affianced who lived down in Hobbs Harbor. But a pretty widow living in a city full of young men was far from being Sophy Maxwell, whom all the bachelors of Hobbs Harbor tacitly avoided as one already disposed of. Furthermore, the widow had of course been told by that meddlesome cousin's wife that he was engaged and he had never hinted to the charming Belle in any way that his inclinations were drifting in another direction.

On all these things and others as harassing did the skipper ponder while he stood there in the shadows waiting for the return of his ambassador.

All at once there was the rapid tchick-tchick-tchick of running feet on the gravel of the walk. The skipper faced about and out of the gloom burst Seth fleeing like a rabbit.

"Run," he gasped and away he went. The skipper, sudden fear clutching his heart, coursed along behind. Occasionally he spurted up abreast Seth and hissed: "What is it?" But Seth only put on more speed and gasped again, "Run!"

In this way they made the dock, running in the dark places, jogging along in a trot when there were people to observe them. They tumbled into the yawl and Seth, floundering with the oars, cuffing gobs of sea-water up onto the skipper in his excitement, managed to

pull out into the harbor and head away for the dim smudge of the Susan.

At regular intervals the skipper still hissed his query at Seth. "What's the trouble?" But Seth had not deigned to reply. Now when they were half way out to the schooner the youth let out a mighty blurt of breath and crossing his oars under one arm wiped his forehead with a shaking forefinger.

"Woof!" he panted, "I'm plumb beat out."

"What in sanup's the matter, Seth?" croaked the skipper.

"Hah-h-h!" puffed Seth. "That was the closest squeak I ever had in all my life." He stared back over the water behind them. "Ye don't hear anything as though any one was a followin' us, do ye?" he said to the captain.

"I don't hear anything," replied the skipper looking around apprehensively. "But what's the matter with ye, anyway?"

"Ye see I went up to the door," Seth commenced.

"Yes—yes—go on!"

"I rung the bell."

"Yes!"

"A man came to the door!"

"A man!"

"Yas, that's it—a man."

"What's wanted?" says he.

"I want to speak to the Widder Belle Foster," says I.

"Hain't no sech woman here," says he. Then he grinned—say, he looked seven feet high, that man did—and he had a red face and his voice sounded like a coffee mill. Wal, he smiled and says he. "She hain't Widder Foster now—she's my wife. If ye want to see her step in."

"No thank ye," says I, "I've got to be goin'. I guess there hain't no need to see her."

"Married!" gurgled the skipper, "married!"

"That's it!" Seth replied cheerfully.

"What a blasted fool a man is to put his dependence on a woman," groaned the skipper.

Seth resumed. "Wal, that man he says, 'I guess not—!' he says after me. 'What did ye come here after, anyway?' 'Nothin',' says I. 'Ye lie,' says he. 'Nothin' much,' says I. Aw, say, he was the biggest man I ever see. He grabbed me by the neck and he jammed me right down on the door steps. 'Own up,' says he, 'who sent ye? If you don't I'll—and he gritted his teeth at me.

"Did ye—did—" the skipper stammered, agast.

"It sort of come right out of me before I thought," moaned Seth. "I couldn't help it." The skipper raised a loose boat seat and glared at Seth as he brandished the weapon. "I'm a good mind to kill ye," roared Gregg.

"He scart me so I couldn't help it—ye hadn't ought to have sent me," Seth whined. "I hain't good at bluffin', and ye know it. Wal, when I said who sent me and that he was down the street, the big man dropped me and started into the house for his hat and revolver, so he said. And I run. When I turned the corner he was just comin' out on the jump. He was after you. He knows who you be. I shouldn't wonder if he come out here to the schooner." Again Seth bent to the oars.

The skipper seemed to think that Newport harbor wasn't safe for him. As soon as they were aboard he ordered Seth to the windlass. The anchor was tripped and ten minutes later the Susan was drifting down with the tide.

All the next day and the next and the next, the skipper stood at the wheel and varied his sulphurous comments on Seth's "dum foolishness," with laments on the fickleness of woman. Now that the widow was gone from him he seemed to have the idea that somehow or other she had been promised to him and was his property—such is the unreasonableness of a man in love. Seth maintained silence.

When the Susan drew near the home port the skipper, softened by thoughts of home, seemed to forget his rancor at the manner in which Seth had betrayed him to the new husband. He admitted to Seth that perhaps he had done the best he knew how. Then he made up for the concession by launching into new invective against the widow.

They had sighted the Nubble lighthouse and were well in toward Hobbs Harbor one afternoon when Seth interrupted the skipper's monotonous oration on the subject of false woman. Gregg had finally reached a point where he declared the unalterable opinion that a man couldn't trust any woman. For his part, he said, he was glad that the widow had got married because now he was safe from her deceit. He had found her out in time.

"She would probably have fooled you latter on, anyway," suggested Seth.

"Them kind of women is bound to," said the skipper.

"Hain't ye a bit sorry ye've got red of her?" asked Seth.

"No, sir," cried the skipper. "I consider it an act of Providence that I didn't git tangled up with her. I kind of lost my head there for a little but I'm over it now."

"Ye never'll be sorry ye didn't git her?" persisted Seth.

"Never," said the skipper, "and so ye don't want to ever say anything round here about the matter, nohow."

"You bet I won't," agreed Seth. "I hain't that kind. But say, Cap. Gregg, I'm awful glad to hear you say that ye're glad ye hain't

BIGGER BOX
SAME PRICE



Enameline
THE MODERN STOVE POLISH

Brilliant. Clean.
Easily Applied.
Absolutely Odorless

LIQUID—
BETTER YET!
FIRE PROOF!!

hitched up with that woman. I allus did have the idea that city women wasn't fit for wives. I reckoned ye'd be sorry some time. Now I'll claim the credit of gittin' ye out of the scrape."

"Ye will, hey?" demanded the skipper, looking at Seth with wonder in his eyes.

"Huh huh!" smiled Seth, jerking his chin down.

"What do ye mean?"

"Now that ye say ye're glad it's over and you are out of the trap that woman set for ye, I'll own up. There wa'n't any man there that night!"

"What!?"

"Naw, wa'n't no man there. I didn't knock on the door at all."

"How did ye happen not to?" asked the skipper with strange quiet in his tones.

"When ye said ye hadn't heard from her for four months it put an idea into my head," confessed Seth. "I jest made it all up. So I claim the credit of gittin' ye out of the scrape." He looked at the skipper for applause.

The skipper made the wheel of the Susan fast with two half hitches. Then he rolled his sleeves above his elbows, grabbed a knotted piece of painter rope and advanced toward Seth with a menace in his white face that the cook and crew had never seen there before.

"Wuh-wuh-what ye goin' to do?" gasped Seth.

"I'm goin' to kill ye right here in sight of home," grated the skipper.

"But ye said ye was glad ye was out of it," blubbered Seth.

"Jim swat your hide to tophet," roared the skipper, "you'll drive me ravin', distracted. Jest as soon's I've killed ye I shall give myself up to the authorities. They'll acquit me after I tell 'em my story—I hain't afeard of that."

He dashed on the youth. But Seth with a yell of terror leaped into the mainmast shrouds and clambered up the ratlines. The skipper pursued him to the trees. But the nimble and younger man shinned the topmast until he was out of reach. There he clung turning a frightened face at the skipper raving below. But the Susan's head began to pay off and the

</

captain was obliged to scurry back to the wheel to prevent the old craft from bowing into the Nubble Ledge. From there on into the harbor the exigencies of navigation were such that Gregg had no opportunity to attempt the capture of Seth. The latter sat disconsolately on the cross trees listening to the reviling threats of the skipper who yelled a new proposition for punishment at him every time the wheel was twirled.

When the *Susan* hove to off the wharf the loungers noted with surprise that the skipper dropped his own anchor and let run the sheets and braces himself while the crew, the cook and the first mate dangled his feet from the cross-trees.

The rumor of this singular spectacle spread up into the village and while the skipper was engaged in furling sails the folks commenced to saunter down the wharf to discover what was the trouble on board the *Susan P. Gregg* just in port from York city.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The third episode in the love career of Capt. Skote Gregg will deal with certain exciting events on shore at Hobbs Harbor.]

The First Soprano.

A Story of Easter.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY M. B. THRASHER.

Copyright, 1902, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher



murmur of talk which filled the church gallery while the members of the choir waited for the Easter rehearsal to begin suddenly hushed.

Annette Harborough had just entered the church below, and was coming toward the stairs that led up into the gallery.

Each person in the choir looked at somebody else, and wondered what would

happen when Annette reached the gallery and found Gertrude Wright sitting in the first soprano's seat. Even the organist, running over the accompaniment to an anthem, lost her place and played two notes wrong.

For the last two years the church in Center Applefield had been twisted and torn by dissensions in its choir, just as one of the trees for which the town was named might have been twisted and torn by hurricane.

The minister, good man, to whom fortunately both factions declared themselves devotedly attached, had gone to bed more than once made sick at heart and body by the quarrel. "They'll be the death of me yet, I really do believe," he sighed one day as his wife bound hot cloths around his aching head.

"It's a pity," she answered, giving utterance in the privacy of their bedroom to feelings long repressed in public, "that they can't get up their voices as easy as they do their backs. We'd have wonderful singing if they did."

Annette Harborough had been the church's first soprano for years. So many years, in fact, that if she had been a less well-to-do woman folks would have called her an old maid. Being that she was the richest woman in town they said, "Annette's getting along in years."

The choir in Center Applefield of course was an unsalaried one. People sang in it from love of the church—some of them. Others sang for honor, and the opportunity which sitting up in the high old-fashioned gallery gave them to look down on their less distinguished relations sitting in the pews below. Probably Annette Harborough would have said that the first of these was the consideration that influenced her, and would have been honestly unconscious how much the latter entered into the matter. To the childless, unconsciously lonely woman, living in the big old Harborough house, her music—especially her church music—had come to be her chief interest in life, an interest deeper and more intense than even her most intimate friends—or she herself, for that matter—realized. Her voice, not particularly strong, but singularly pure and high, had dominated the other voices in the choir just as her will and wishes had overruled those of the other singers. Through all these years she had set in the front seat at the right hand of the middle of the gallery, the dividing line between the sopranos, and, between them, the basses and the tenors.

Until two years before that she had never had a suggestion of a rival, and then the rival had come from a quarter in which she would never have looked for one, for to women of thirty—or older, some said—girls of seventeen are only little girls.

Gertrude Wright had been a pretty little girl with a fresh, childish voice. Annette had suggested that she be taken into the choir. Looking back, now, she felt this fact to be an added grievance. At seventeen, Gertrude was a beautiful woman, with a voice stronger than Annette's, if not so sweet and high.

There were some, too, who said that the choir's leader did not always sing true, now. Only that Sunday morning they had been talking of that in the choir, with reference to an earlier rehearsal of the Easter music.

"Where the soprano goes up, there, on 'Christ the Lord is risen on high,' she certainly did flat," the organist said, playing over the strain as she spoke. "She sang that 'high,' half a note too low."

"Probably she wanted to play high, low, j—," began John Amidon, who sang bass; but the organist, who was a woman with a strong sense of the propriety of things, cut him off short with—

"John Amidon! You stop! Don't you know you are in the meeting house?"

John Amidon was a young man. What was more, he was very much in love with Gertrude Wright, and did not care who knew it.

What made the trouble so serious for the church was that Deacon Wright, Gertrude's father, was the richest man in town, just as Annette was the richest woman. The two together paid a good half of all the church expenses, and the rest of the society realized that if either became hopelessly estranged it meant that they themselves must go down into their own pockets to make up the loss. Deacon Wright openly asserted that his daughter, now nineteen and radiant in all the glory of young womanhood's strength and vitality, was the best singer in the choir, and ought to have the first place. "Annette Harborough's too old to sing," he declared.

More than one church meeting called for other purposes had ended by dividing over this question. So far the Harborough faction had kept control of the music committee of the society, but at a meeting held the night before this rehearsal they had been, for the first time, outvoted. At this meeting the chairman of the committee had been instructed to notify Miss Wright that she was the choir leader and as such was to take the leading soprano's seat, and when the Sunday morning rehearsal came he had done so.

The gallery door opened and Annette stood in the doorway. The singers in their seats tried to think of something to talk about, and failed, and were dumb. Only the organist, who suddenly had found the notes before her so difficult that she was obliged to bend forward to read them, broke the silence with the organ's sound.

The gaze of the woman in the doorway traveled past the singers to her seat, and to the woman sitting in it. The place next it, the second place, was vacant.

"What does this mean?" she asked, facing the situation promptly. Her clear, high voice made every word distinctly heard above the organ.

The chairman of the music committee—one of the tenor singers—coughed and rose in his seat.

The organist stopped playing.

"I have been instructed," the man said, getting the words out with difficulty, "to inform you, Miss Harborough, that the music committee of the society has voted that after this Miss Wright will be the leading soprano. A majority of the committee," he hastened to add.

The man sat down. "She never answered a word," he told his wife afterward, when he got home that day, "but she looked like death; and she just turned 'round and went down stairs, and out."

The choir watched the woman cross the church below them in silence. Folks in the congregation said the singing went lame that day, and those that did not know what had happened, wondered if Annette Harborough was sick that she was not there.

Long past midnight, one night, some weeks after Easter, people in Center Applefield, sleeping soundly, stirred in bed, sleepily wondered what was the matter, and then sprang wide awake to know that some one in the road outside was shouting "Fire!" and that the church bell was being rung furiously. Streaming out into the village, half dressed men and bare-headed women, they found that it was the church itself that was on fire, and that the bell clangling in the tower was ringing its own knell.

There had been a church supper in the vestry that evening, and the fire had taken from the kitchen.

"Serves them just right," said an aged deacon's wife, as she brought out an armful of hymnbooks and laid them down on the pew cushions that her husband had brought out before her. "I've always said they'd no business to hitch a kitchen on to a meeting house."

The bell had ceased. The rope had burned off, and the flames already were wrapping around the spire. The bell itself might fall at any minute. Everything movable had been brought out of the church, and the people could only stand about in the glare of the flames now and watch the building go. More than one was crying, for the old house of worship had grown fast into the lives of many there. Some were thinking of weddings and funerals which had taken place there, which had meant much to them.

Suddenly a woman screamed and pointed upward to the gallery window, from which the sash had been torn out.

Annette Harborough stood in the open space, grasping the window frame with one hand.

"Jump!" cried half a dozen men, running forward to stand beneath the window.

But while they were still too far away to have caught her if she had done as they had bid, the woman in the window fainted, let go her hold on the window frame, and sank back into the gallery of the burning building.

"Gertrude! Shall I go?"

In time, the interval that passed between the question and its answer could have been measured only by seconds, but it was long enough for John Amidon and the girl beside him to see again in memory the face of the woman that Sunday, as she had stood in the doorway of the gallery.

"Yes, John. Go."

Pulling the shawl from her shoulders she wrapped it around his head, bending forward as she did so to kiss him, regardless of who might see her.

A dozen voices shouted to the man to come back, and when he did not heed them, were hushed as their owners watched breathlessly to see if he came out again from the burning building into which he had rushed.

The entire structure was on fire now. At any moment the bell might fall, bringing down the spire with it; and the gallery was just beneath.

But the bell did not fall. At least not until after the young man had come back into the open air, bringing the senseless woman with him, and had laid her down upon a pile of cushions.

Afterward, when they were building the new church, and Annette Harborough gave three thousand dollars toward the expense, folks said the money must be a thank offering.

"She seems to have forgotten all about the trouble in the choir," they said, "and she sings again in meeting now just as hearty as anybody can." While the new church was being built the society held services in the town hall, and as there was no gallery there they had congregational singing.

In the fall the women of the society frequently gathered in the unfinished building to sew carpets, make pew cushions, and help the work along in similar feminine ways. One day Annette and Gertrude found themselves working side by side, and, for a moment, left alone in the vestry. They had never spoken that spring day so long before.

The older woman looked hastily around to see that no one could hear.

"You saved my life," she said, breathing short and quick. "I want to tell you that I wasn't worthy of it. I set the church on fire myself. I meant to burn up in it, I was so miserable, but at the last minute my courage failed me. I felt I was too wicked to die. Then after all, I would, wicked or not, if it hadn't been for you. I was crazy, I guess. Only you, who are young and have everything, didn't know what it meant for me to give up my singing. It was all I had in the world."

"I didn't then," the younger woman said, "not at first. But when I saw you standing in the window that night, somehow I knew."

Then, just as she had kissed John Amidon that night in the fire's glare, she bent forward and kissed the woman working beside her.

They had meant to get into the new church for Christmas, but the furnaces were late in coming, and when they did come, Curt Aldrich, the only man in town who could set them, broke his leg, and what with one hindrance and another, the building was so long in being completed that the first service held in it was to be on Easter Sunday.

"Who'll sing the solo in the anthem?" asked the organist, when the subject of Easter music was brought up at a sewing circle.

"Annette," said Gertrude Wright promptly, Miss Harborough herself not being present.

"Is Annette going to sing again?" somebody asked.

"Yes," said Gertrude, and then, blushing beautifully, she added, "she's promised to sing at my wedding, Easter week."

The Pilot.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GEO. H. SMITH.

Copyright, 1902, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher

TWO men stood on top the levee which restrains the Mississippi river from flooding miles and miles of the rich Yazoo Delta. Far below them, for it was extreme low water, the Father of Waters slipped softly past the foot of the levee, and then shimmered in the wonderful sun-filled Southern air, a mile wide to where the Arkansas shore, sandy at the water's edge looked green and cool beneath the trees which grew farther up the bank.

Around a bend in this green wall, up stream,

Only a Postal

Send me no money, but simply write a postal for the book you want.

I will send with it an order on your druggist to let you have 6 bottles of Dr. Shoop's Restorative. He will let you take it a month. If it cures, the cost will be \$5.50. If it fails, he sends the bill to me.

This remedy strengthens the inside nerve power that operates all vital organs. It brings back the only power that can make the organs do their duty. I have spent a lifetime on it.

I sometimes fail, but only when the trouble is organic—like cancer—causing a damage beyond repair. Such conditions are rare. My records show that 30 out of 40 who get those six bottles pay for them. Yet no druggist accepts a penny where the patient states that the treatment failed.

This offer is too fair to need argument. Your own druggist is the one who fulfills it. Won't you write me a postal to learn what I can do?

Simply state which book you want, and address Dr. Shoop, Box 304, Racine, Wis. Book No. 1 on Dyspepsia, Book No. 2 on the Heart, Book No. 3 on the Kidneys, Book No. 4 for Women, Book No. 5 for Men (sealed), Book No. 6 on Rheumatism.

Mild cases, not chronic, are often cured by one or two bottles. At all drugists.

something came in sight that looked like a big summer hotel floating down the river.

"What's that coming there?" one of the men asked.

"I reckon that all's Jim Remshaw's show boat," was the answer.

"What's a show boat?" the first speaker asked again.

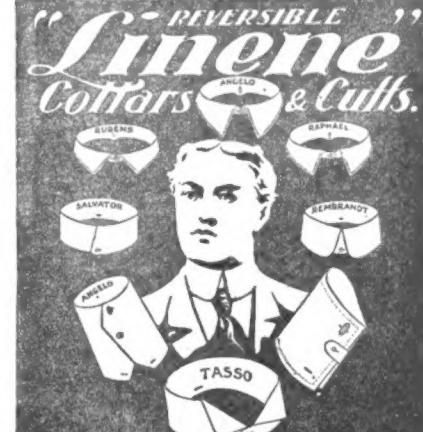
The man of whom he had asked the question turned to look at him curiously. He, himself, was evidently a riverman. Tall, spare, broad-shouldered and straight, the rich brown tan on his face from his coal black hair down to where the loose collar of his blue flannel shirt rolled back from his strong neck showed that he had lived in the open air beneath a Southern sky.

"You all must be a stranger here," he said.

"Yes," said the other man. "I never was here before. I never saw the Mississippi river until today.

"I am a Northern man," he added, "a doctor by profession. I am taking a few weeks' rest, and am on my way to Mexico. I came around this way to visit a college friend of mine who is practicing in — naming a town in the center of the state. I found I had to wait here nearly half a day for a train so I am trying to see what I can of the place.

"Now I have answered your question," he



MANY ADVANTAGES.

Perfect in fit, never ragged or uncomfortable. Very convenient, stylish, economical. Made of fine cloth and exactly resemble linen goods. The turn down collars are reversible and give double service.

NO LAUNDRY WORK.

When soiled discard. Ten collars or five pairs of cuffs, 25c. By mail, 30c. Send 60c in stamps for sample collar or pair of cuffs. Name size and style.

REVERSIBLE COLLAR CO., Dept. K, Boston.



Learn Book-keeping BY MAIL—AT YOUR OWN HOME. This is the chance of a lifetime for young men and women and you should not miss it. New method, any position to earn good salary at once. Thoroughly practical and remarkably inexpensive; we find position too, free of charge. Write to-day for full particulars. Michigan Business Institute, 30 Institute Building, Kalamazoo, Mich.

\$3 a Day Sure and we will show you how to make \$3 a day absolutely sure; we furnish the work and teach you free, you work in the locality where you live. Send us your address and we will make the business fully, remember we guarantee a clear profit of \$2 for every day's work absolutely sure. Write to-day. ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., Box 464, Detroit, Mich.

WE WANT 30 young men and women to learn TELEGRAPHY. We will teach them and furnish situations. Oberlin School of Telegraphy, Oberlin, O.

OVELL Diamond Bicycles, \$15 1902 MODEL. Guaranteed. Catalog free. LOVELL ARMS CO., Boston, Mass. Write how to get one free.

went on, turning, with the shadow of a smile to the man beside him, "suppose you answer mine. Will you smoke?" handing out a cigar case.

"Don't care if I do," his companion said, accepting the proffered favor. "You asked about that boat. A show boat's a sort of floating theatre. You'll see what they're like when this one gets down here. She'll tie up to the bank right about where we are, I reckon. There's quite a lot of them on the river. Some of them run up the Red River. They're really two boats, you'll see. The one behind furnishes the power, and is a sort of hotel in which the performers and all the rest of them live. The boat on ahead is the theatre, with stage in one end, and seats—two tiers of them. This one coming will seat a thousand persons. She's one of the biggest on the river. It's an opera company she carries, good folks, too, some of them. Jim Remshaw's owned her only a couple of years. He bought her when old man Syms, who has been in the business for years, died."

The floating theater was near the town now, and the huge stern wheel behind the rear boat churned the yellow water into foam as it answered the signals of the man in the pilot house who was laboring to get the unwieldy craft up to the shore. The sound—one could hardly call it music—of a vociferous steam caliope on board which served to announce the show's arrival, called a good share of the town's population, white and black, to the top of the levee.

"James Y. Remshaw." The name was painted along the side of the forward boat, the big black letters standing out distinct against the boat's white side.

"Do you know that man—Remshaw?" the doctor asked of his companion.

"Some," was the laconic answer.

"Is he a native of these parts, do you know, or where did he come from?"

"He wasn't raised in these parts. I don't know where he came from," the river man answered; and then added a moment later with a sudden, repressed fury which made the man at his side turn to look closely at him, "straight from hell, I reckon."

"You're a stranger to me," he said fiercely, as if in answer to the question in the other man's face, "but you're a doctor, and I never saw a good doctor yet that couldn't be trusted with other folks' troubles. I'm jest dead with the misery that's in me. There's a woman on board that boat—a good woman, too—that I love better than my life itself; and she used to love me until that man came between us. I believe she loves me yet, in her heart, only she don't know it when he's 'round, he's got such a hold on her. She's acting and singing in one of the plays they give and he lets her think she's going to make a strike that way, but she isn't. She's no genius. I know that if I do love her. She's just a handsome woman, and a good woman, yet—God knows how long, though, if she can't be made to see what he is. Her home is in a river town not more than fifty miles above here. That was my home, too. We were going to be married. I've got a good bit of money saved up. I'm a river pilot. Then this show boat stopped there and Remshaw saw her. After that he never let up, every time he was there, until she joined his troupe. That was a week ago."

"What made you ask about him?" he said suddenly. "Do you know anything about him?"

"If he is the man I think he is," the doctor answered, "I know he has a wife in New York, whom he deserted three years ago, when she was sick in a hospital there."

The blood left the riverman's bronzed face, until it seemed as if the coat of tan upon it was painted over dead white marble.

"Stranger," he said, "if you have a wife, or a sweetheart, for the sake of the love you bear to them, help me save this woman. If she knows what you know, I reckon she'll give him up, but if I just tell her she'll think I made up the story."

"It won't mean missing more than one train for you," he went on, "and it means missing my whole life if I lose her. I know it isn't an easy job I'm asking of you. If all the stories told about Jim Remshaw are true, he has killed a man for less than this."

"If this is the man I knew," said the doctor, "he had no love for me when he last saw me, but I doubt if he would know me now, meeting me here. Tell me what you want me to do."

The two men talked earnestly for a few minutes, screened, as they supposed, by the sound of the caliope from any danger of the people near them hearing what they were saying.

"Will you do it?" the pilot asked, at last.

"Yes," said the doctor.

The two men climbed down from the levee and walked away in the direction of the town.

The auditorium of the floating theater was well filled at that night's performance. The doctor sat well back in the audience, and near the wall. The heavily bearded man who sat beside him would never have been identified with the man who had been with him on the levee that day, so well had his disguise been planned. Along in the middle of the first act a young woman came on the stage in a minor part.

"That's her," the riverman whispered hoarsely. What he had said of her was true. She was beautiful, but sing or act she could not.

"There!" he added suddenly. "That's Remshaw at the side of the stage there, looking at her. Is he the man you know?"

"Yes," said his companion. "That is the man."

At the end of the first act the two men left the boat. Half an hour later they parted at the door of one of the saloons in the city, in which the pilot of the show boat was enjoying his lay off from duty. The man with the beard entered the saloon, and in no long time the two rivermen were drinking together.

At midnight, that night, Remshaw came up the gangplank on to the boat on which the troupe lived. He carried a small handbag with him. The show was over, the theater dark, and the actors gone to their rooms.

"Has Rast"—the pilot—"come on board yet?" Remshaw asked of a watchman who sat smoking at the head of the plank.

"No," said the man.

The owner of the showboat swore roundly. "He's drunk," he said. "I heard on shore he was most paralyzed in a saloon there an hour ago, and then went out. I've been looking for him but I can't find him." He sat down near the man, putting the bag down carefully beside him as he did so.

"Don't kick that bag," he said. "There's dynamite in it. The paper says the river's going to keep falling for the next few days anyway. If it gets much lower we'll likely have to blow out a snag or two somewhere, to



PUSH BACK THE RAIN PUSH IT BACK WITH YOUR HANDS

It's as easy to push it back with your hands as it is to run your farm or home properly without knowing what the right prices of the goods you buy are. Are you satisfied that you are not paying too much? Do you know what the right price is? Our catalogues will tell you. We sell everything that's good at wholesale prices. What will you need this month?

Any Catalogue Below Sent FREE for the Asking

Furniture—Farm Implements—Vehicles—Sewing Machines—Hardware—Crockery—Glassware—Stoves—Sporting Goods—Harness—Drugs—Stationery—Toys—Leather Goods—Musical Instruments—Silverware—Carpets and Rugs—Underwear—Notions—Books—Shoes—Millinery—Cloaks—Shirts—Furs—and Men's and Boy's Suits (both Ready-Made and Made-to-Order) including Samples.

Each of the above catalogues illustrates and describes everything that anybody wants in its line. Each quotes the lowest wholesale prices; prices that cannot be duplicated anywhere in America. Write today for the one that interests you.

Montgomery Ward & Co.

Chicago

Now in our 30th year of upright, honest business

5

Miss Trundy—"Ha'nt."

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HERMAN GRAY.

Copyright, 1902, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTER.

Squire Todd, widower for a number of years, decides to marry Widow Jets. Miss Trundy, who has been the squire's housekeeper since his wife's death, is notified and volunteers to leave. The squire tells her he shall give her five hundred dollars, but she says she doesn't need it and will not take it.

ARRANGED, a few days before the wedding Miss Trundy bade good bye to the old house where she had labored so many years and moved her possessions to a cozy little cottage down the street.

She was really happy after she was well settled. No longer had she the care of a family on her mind. She was free to go and come as she liked.

There was no worry about her modest future. On their part the Squire and his bride seemed to be as well satisfied and settled. Such all-round happiness was too much for the village. The matter was discussed in its various phases at the regular meeting of the Current Events club, and the English Literature club stood Browning off at one side for the day while they paid due attention to the mean way old Ben Todd had used Maria Trundy who had slaved and toiled for him and his all her life long, and won.

"He'll shoot you, Will," she faltered, "shoot us both, perhaps, just as soon as he sees you on board."

"He won't see me on board," was the answer. "See that place down there where the water ripples just a bit," pointing down the river. "That's the place I've been watching for ever since sun-up."

"You two slip down quietly on this side the boat to where a row boat is dragging, and get into the boat, and wait for me. Take this with you, doctor," handing the latter the pilot's megaphone. "You'll find a loaded rifle in the boat. Put it there last night, when I let the other boat go adrift."

Five minutes later the pilot joined the man and woman in the skiff, and casting the boat adrift pushed her out into the current just as the forward one of the two big boats drove full speed upon a sand bar in the middle of the river.

The woman lay down in the bottom of the boat. There were two pairs of oars. The two men pulled silently, and with all their strength.

Almost instantly there was an uproar on board the show boat. Men rushed on deck, and woman looked out from hastily opened stateroom windows. Slowly but steadily the two boats turned in the current until both lay across the river, fast aground.

The skiff, pulled steadily down stream, put more and more distance between her and the boats she had left, but yet not enough so but when a revolver rang out on deck, its bullet struck the water dangerously near.

"Keep on rowing, doctor," the pilot said, as he dropped his own oars and reached for the megaphone on one side of him and for the rifle on the other.

"Take care, there, Jim Remshaw," his voice rang out through the megaphone. "If you fire again I'll put a bullet from this rifle plumb through the side of your boat into that cupboard where you keep your dynamite."

The coatless, vestless, hatless man who had fired the revolver disappeared suddenly from the deck of the show boat.

"He's gone to move his dynamite to some other place," the riverman chuckled. "He'll find the cupboard locked. The key's in my pocket. He won't be likely to break the door open by force very carelessly. By the time he gets back, I reckon we'll be out of range."

"I hope they've got some good swimmers on board," he added a moment later. "They never'll get word on shore in any other way, for there isn't a settlement in sight here. I reckon it's safe for me to take the oars again now."

The little skiff swept swiftly down stream, and presently a bend in the river hid it from sight.

feel toward the Squire she didn't want to hurt the feelings of the new Mrs. Todd. "She has always used me just as nice as one woman could use another," she avowed, "and I hain't goin' to root up a scandal and drag her into it."

Two days later Mrs. Johnson told her that Mrs. Todd had said to a party from whom it came straight, that Maria Trundy "had figured every way she knew how to catch the Squire and had even made eyes at him before his first wife died." That shaft hurt. Miss Trundy vowed that she did not believe a word of it and yet she lay awake half the night and thought the matter over. In the morning she decided that probably Mrs. Todd really did say it.

Mrs. Johnson came around after breakfast. "What are you goin' to do about that matter, Miss Trundy?" she inquired. "The whole village is watchin' you and waitin' for you to take some action to stop their mouths. And if you've got any spunk at all you'll do it."

"I've thought it over," said Maria with her mouth quivering, "and I hain't goin' to say a word to either of 'em. The Squire knows how hard I worked for his interests. I believe that today he has horror of conscience because he turned me out to make room for another woman."

"Well, what are you goin' to do?" persisted Mrs. Johnson.

"I'm goin' to ha'nt the both of them," declared Maria solemnly.

"You're goin' to what—t—t?" cried the lawyer's wife.

"The Good Book says to treat well them as do despicably use you," said Miss Trundy. "I hain't goin' to work and try to hurt the Squire and his wife with the law. That wouldn't be Christian. But I mean to hold the errors of their ways before them both in this life and in the life to come. As long as I stay on earth I shall ha'nt them and when I am laid away in the cold ground my spirit will still ha'nt them. I shall be an uncomplaining martyr. And I know that God will touch their hard hearts through me."

"Well of all things!" ejaculated Mrs. Johnson. "What do you mean to do?"

"What do I mean to do?" echoed the spinster.

Japanese Climbing Wonder



Sure Crop Cabbage

is the earliest in the world. Sure of a crop, and sure to head every time. Five dollars a pound, and few seeds. If you can get any, you would not take \$1.00 for it, because it must be grown to be appreciated. You can not obtain this seed elsewhere.

Picnic Lettuce

Best eating, summer, fall and winter lettuce ever offered. Fancy, but grows quick, and so tender.

50 Brilliant Flowers

is another of my 1902 specialties, and will produce a most brilliant display of flowers. Their beauty is beyond description: cost hundreds of dollars to collect the hundreds.

My Souvenir Catalogue

is filled with bargains, colored plates photographic reproductions, premium offers, and new plans worth dollars to anyone. 800,000 copies going out. It's free.

50 Aquatic Cream Separators

Centrifugal Separators cost too much money and require too much machinery. This costs less than the interest on the money and is better. Separates closely and leaves the cream in the best condition. Made in 4 sizes, from 1 to 15 gallons, easy to clean and easy to operate. Send for catalog and sample. Price \$1.00.

AGENTS WANTED

to sell "Schley Santiago," by Geo. E. Graham. Autograph introduction and personal account of the battle by Rear Admiral Schley. True Story of Santiago told exactly as it occurred to the First Time by the only eye witnesses of the fight. No subject before the public interests everybody as this story of Admiral Schley. The American people demand full recognition of the Hero of Santiago. Book selling like wildfire. Price \$1.50 to \$2.75, according to binding. Liberal commissions. Outfit and books ready. Send seven 2c stamps for complete outfit. Act quick. Big money for you.

W. B. CONKEY CO., Sole Publishers, CHICAGO.

MORE BUTTER

and better butter is what every cow owner desires. This demands something better in the dairy than the old milk pan or the modern creamery. We have it in our improved patent

Aquatic Cream Separator

Centrifugal Separators cost too much money and require too much machinery. This costs less than the interest on the money and is better. Separates closely and leaves the cream in the best condition. Made in 4 sizes, from 1 to 15 gallons, easy to clean and easy to operate. Send for catalog and sample. Price \$1.00 to \$2.75, according to binding. Liberal

commissions. Outfit and books ready. Send seven 2c stamps for complete outfit. Act quick. Big money for you.

W. B. CONKEY CO., Sole Publishers, CHICAGO.

AGENTS WANTED

Santiago," by Geo. E. Graham. Autograph introduction and personal account of the battle by Rear Admiral Schley. True Story of Santiago told exactly as it occurred to the First Time by the only eye witnesses of the fight. No subject before the public interests everybody as this story of Admiral Schley. The American people demand full recognition of the Hero of Santiago. Book selling like wildfire. Price \$1.50 to \$2.75, according to binding. Liberal

commissions. Outfit and books ready. Send seven 2c stamps for complete outfit. Act quick. Big money for you.

W. B. CONKEY CO., Sole Publishers, CHICAGO.

COMFORT.

Her eyes were directed through her little window and she saw the Squire and his bride coming down the sidewalk arm in arm. "I'll show you what I mean to do," she said, her lips tightening straight across. Miss Trundy threw her shawl about her shoulders in prim folds, put on her close bonnet and went out to the sidewalk. She stood just inside her gate and when the Squire and Mrs. Todd passed they tipped her a pleasant nod and a good-morning. Miss Trundy did not reply but the couple were engrossed in their conversation and did not notice that omission. After they had strolled past Miss Trundy fell in behind and trailed them at distance of a few feet. As the procession passed through the village it attracted a bit of attention but not as much as it did the next day when the people had been informed by the tongue of gossip that Maria Trundy had constituted herself a spook in the flesh to haunt the new happiness of the Squire and his bride. On the first day the Squire scarcely noticed the familiar presence of Maria. He was used to having her about. But on the second day something in the smiling visages along the street informed him that "things were doin'." At the door of his office, as he was about to take leave of his wife, he whirled 'round and accosted Miss Trundy who stood there grimly at a distance of a few feet.

"Mari', what in the name of sanup are you following us-around in this way for?"

"Let your own false heart tell you," boomed the majestic and menacing Maria in her deepest contralto. Then she turned away and left them.

"Maria acted queer for some weeks before she left our house," said the Squire to his astonished spouse. "I wouldn't be surprised if she is touched just a little. Old maids get that way."

But that particular old maid grew trouble-some before the week was over. Every time the Squire and his wife ventured out of doors she was at their heels. And as she refused to hold any converse with the angry old man he couldn't understand what it all meant. Miss Trundy had left his house in the best spirits and with a perfect understanding existing between them. She knew that she was mentioned in his will. Yet here she was chasing behind like a Hecate. She ambled at their heels when they went to church, to lodge, to the store or for a stroll. All the people were at the doors as they passed in singular procession.

At last the Squire's wife came home from every trip through the village, sobbing with hysterical indignation. She demanded that the Squire lock up this madwoman who was making existence a burden. But the Squire, remembering the years of past service, was not willing to treat Maria harshly. He made careful inquiries. He studied the causes leading up to this obsession that was haunting him.

And then he sprang the biggest sensation the village had ever known. For he stood right up in church at the conclusion of the sermon one Sunday and commenced to talk. Grim and stiff and uncompromising, Maria had sat just behind him during the service. She as well as all the rest of the people present gasped when the Squire commenced his little oration. And all the folks were there, for congregations had been large since the "ha'nt" had commenced.

The Squire told the story of the influences that had been brought to bear on an inoffensive woman to induce her to turn against her best friends and make herself and them ridiculous before the eyes of a gaping village. He described the manner in which that woman had cared for his home and had been a mother to his orphan children.

As he talked, Maria's angular stiffness doubled forward. When he paid tribute to her unselfishness and honor before she had been misled by busybodies in the village—and he gave the names of those persons—Maria crept around the end of the Squire's pew and sat down in its further end. In another minute she had her head in the lap of the Squire's wife and was sobbing.

The Squire changed his topic then and paid his respects to the meddlers who had ruined the peace of a good woman, and those present do say that fiercer invective never rolled from his lips even in the big murder trial of the county. A half dozen whom he especially assailed bowed their heads and sneaked from the church. No one tried to stop him. The talk around town next day was that it proved the most helpful sermon on neighborliness that was ever preached in the old church.

When the Squire went home to dinner he had his wife on one arm and Maria on the other.

"You'll live with us after this Mari'" said he. "If I've got to be ha'nted I'd rather have the ghost right on the premises, for that's the regular way for family ghosts to settle."

Maria gave a half sob.

"Don't twit, Squire, after it's all been settled," remonstrated his wife.

"Oh, I forgot," said the old gentleman. "The ghost has been laid. And," he concluded with a grim smile, "I guess that those who started the ghost in business have been laid out. And it's given me a prime appetite for dinner."

"No Sugar."

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ELIZABETH ORR WILLIAMS.

Copyright, 1902, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.

THE beautiful river Derry flowed along the eastern side of the thriving town of Slattersville, and furnished a good water-power for the cotton mill which stood on its banks. On a warm day in May, 18—, when the mill bell rang twelve o'clock, the mill hands came rushing out, and among them were some Portuguese young women and girls, some of whom were quite handsome with their olive complexions and their velvety eyes.

Nearly every day at this hour, Urban Vetchy

\$5.95 ALL WOOL SUIT \$5.95
Man's suit made from rich, fast color, blue black, all wool cassimere, by expert tailors in latest sack style to fit perfect, lined with linen thread, guaranteed equal to others' \$10 suits. Send \$1.00 deposit, give height, weight, chest, waist and crotch measure and we'll express the suit C. O. D. subject to examination, you to pay balance, otherwise we'll refund your \$1.00. Send to-day for our **FREE CLOTHING CATALOG**, quoting our wholesale factory prices on million dollar stocks of Men's, Boys' and Children's clothing, and showing all the latest spring and summer styles; or if you want **SAMPLES** of men's ready-made clothing, send 5 cents for book containing about 60 patterns of cloth. Write JOHN M. SMYTH CO., Chicago, to-day for suit, free clothing catalog or samples.

TRIMMED HATS 98c

to \$1.45 equal to exclusive millinery \$1.75 to \$10 hats are described and illustrated in our

SPECIAL MILLIN'RY CATALOG which we will send free upon request. The styles are exact copies of leading Paris and London pattern hats, selected especially for us and are creations of art.

OUR SPECIAL MILLIN'RY CATALOG is \$1.69, like the illustration, we command for a fashionable button price hat, that will become any price. It's made on a wire frame with mull and black straw braid, brim droops in back and front, turns up on left side; fold of tucked black mull and of black lace surrounds crown: two folds of tucked black mull in plaid effect extend from back to left side with light lace patches with fancy contrasting folded bandage is draped with black mull caught with handsome buckle and twist of black velvet; trimmed under brim of bandage with natural foliage; choice of tan, light blue, pink or white, with trimming to match. **SEND \$1.69** as described, send it back and we will refund your money. Write JOHN M. SMYTH CO., Chicago, to-day for hat or catalog.

STYLISH SKIRT \$1.95

Man tailored to hang graceful and fit perfectly, in latest 1902 Spring and Summer style, made tight-fitting and hips with full bottom, cambric lined and bound with binding. Material is best quality deep rich black Morello cloth, famed for its perfect finish and smooth even weave; skirt is a rare, beautiful garment, admirably adapted to wear with a shirtwaist, the two forming a handsome suit. Order the skirt to-day, and if not as described we'll refund your money.

write **FREE CATALOG OF Illustrating hundreds of Sprung styles** in our **LADIES' CARMENTS** Skirts from \$1.85 up, All-wool Suits from \$4.95 up, Jackets from \$5.90 up, Capes from \$1.95 up, everything at wholesale prices, all latest Paris, London and New York styles.

Catalog Free

\$8.65 buys our high-grade LIGHT RUNNING PROPS "CLAYTON"

3 Drawer Sewing Machine (49.95 for 5 drawers as illustrated) complete with accessories, all ready to sew, made with highly polished solid oak cabinet, extra high arm-head, fine iron stand, and all improvements found in \$50 machines, sews perfectly, guaranteed 20 years, attachments 75c extra. Sent anywhere upon receipt of price, with privilege to return or exchange if not as represented. We sell other machines at \$10.00 to \$20.00 styles, biggest assortment in the world. Write JOHN M. SMYTH CO., Chicago, to-day for Sewing Machine or Sewing Machine Catalog.

WE SELL EVERYTHING you eat, wear or use. Write for **FREE CATALOG** of the goods you think of buying.

came around with molasses candy to sell. In this way he earned his slim livelihood. Sometimes when the day was warm and he was tired he would wheel his little cart under the shade of a tree on some more retired street, and take a nap; but each time on waking he would find the greater part of his candy gone. He could not see a person round, and he wondered what had become of it. This had happened several times.

Finally he concluded to change his route; he would wheel over to Hillside where there were more people, and he would not go to sleep, or, if he did, he could wheel in behind some hedge or bush to keep the sun from it.

When he returned from the stable he found half of his candy gone. He did not know what to do but to complain to the cook, who told him that there was no one on the premises who would even think of such a thing as taking his candy. So he left thinking that his poor and mysterious luck had started up again.

The family determined to solve the mystery, the disappearance of the loaf sugar, for the ground sugar never was missed. So the butler was instructed to fix up a place in one corner of the dining-room to lie down, and to pass the night there.

Bertan drank strong coffee and kept awake until half past one o'clock when he fell asleep.

When he awoke it was daylight. He got up and found the sugar-bowl empty. He felt that he was beaten, and felt ashamed of himself for falling asleep. He would sit up all night next time. At breakfast Bertan confessed that he fell asleep. "No sugar" became a by-word.

The weather being fine Mr. and Mrs. Headly went on a twenty-mile drive, returning in the early evening. It had been a very warm day, and they had dined at a country hotel on the way. Mrs. Headly retired for the night feeling very weary and in the night she was taken suddenly ill. Mr. Headly got up at once and went quietly down the side stairs and entered a small passage-way which led into the dining-room, to get some wine in the sideboard.

It was a bright moonlight night and what

did he see but Lilypus, the little black and tan dog on the sideboard with her nose in the sugar-bowl. She jumped down with a lump in her mouth and ran into the hall. Mr. Headly kept quiet, and in came Lilypus again, jumped up into the chair beside the sideboard and from there to the sugar-bowl, took out a lump of sugar and went into the hall. This she did three times and each time Mr. Headly could hear a growl from Kaiser the mastiff. On her fourth trip Mr. Headly followed her into the hall and saw her lay the sugar down before Kaiser who ate it and munched with great satisfaction. Mr. Headly said nothing but was infinitely amused. He took the wine and returned to his wife, and to divert her he told her the secret of the missing sugar, which also amused her.

At the breakfast-table the next morning Mr.

Headly called the dogs and offered them each a

lump of sugar. Kaiser dropped his tail and

wouldn't touch it. Lilypus took a lump but

dropped it at once, being afraid of Kaiser.

Moll Pitcher called out saying, "I told you so,

I told you so, he! he!" Kaiser growled and

Moll kept quiet. Mr. Headly called the butler

and said "take these dogs out to the stable and

give them just enough to eat to keep them

from starving and bring them to me tomorrow morning at this time."

Kaiser followed Bertan with a very sheepish air. Lilypus kept running back and jumping

up into his lap to kiss his hands and begged

so earnestly in her way not to be sent off

with Kaiser, that Mr. Headly told Bertan he

need not take Lilypus. She had always been

well-behaved and they were convinced that

the new dog, Kaiser, had driven her to the

bottom of the sugar.

A few days after this Mr. Headly met Urban

Vetchy the candy-man and hailed him: "See

here, Vetchy, I hear that you lost some of your

SLEEPER GO-CART

LUXURIOUS and com-

fortable, latest 1902 style, adjustable to sleeper position by means

of a simple device whereby back

lowers and dash raises, assuming

length of 38 inches, body is 14½

inches wide, made from selected

white maple and imported

reeds, detachable upholster-

ing of Bedford cord or Venetian

caning in leather covers, fitted

with broad fance struts across

front to hold child in place, and beautiful scalloped

and ruffled French **satin** parasol to match upholster-

ing. The steel wheels have

extra strong axles and springs, heavy rubber tires and

the celebrated "Heywood" patent foot brake, running

gear is the popular green enamel and stripe.

Send for Catalog.

\$1.00 DEPOSIT

for catalog, special "Faultless" sleeper

go-cart complete, as described and illustrated, C. O. D., by

express or freight, subject to examination, you to pay agent balance (\$6.35) and transportation charges if found

exactly as represented, otherwise we'll refund your \$1.00. Write JOHN M. SMYTH CO., Chicago, to-day for Go-Cart or Free Baby Carriage Catalog listing scores of other styles at \$2.25 up.

AT WHOLESALE PRICES WE RETAIL EVERYTHING YOU EAT WEAR OR USE, including Groceries, Candy, Rugs, Oil Cloth, Lace Curtains, Organs, Pianos, Band Instruments, Musical Instruments of all kinds Vehicles, Farm Implements, Harness, Shoes, Stoves, Refrigerators, Kitchen Utensils, Laundry Utensils, Table Silverware, Glassware, Crockery, Cutlery, Utensils, Plumber's Supplies, Dairy Supplies, Windmills, Telephones, Cameras, Sewing Machines, Jewelry, Men's, Boys' and Children's Clothing, Mackintoshes, Oil Cloth, Duck Clothing, Hats and Caps, Men's Furnishing Goods, Furniture, Ladies' Misses' and Children's Underwear, Furs, Millinery, Laces, Novelty Goods, Guns, Revolvers, Sporting Goods, Bicycles, Drags, Syringes, Brushes, Electric Belts, and over 150,000 other articles.

WRITE FOR FREE CATALOG OF THE GOODS YOU WANT.

WALL PAPER sample

and ninety nine cents and we will send **BIG 7-YARD DRESS** black a **CODDS PATTERN** broad

Purkeller cloth, woven in France from selected yarns in rich elaborate patterns, suitable for young and old, a firm, fast color fabric, 36 inches wide, good weight for year around wear, same dress pattern in exclusive dry goods stores would cost \$4.00. Guaranteed exactly as described or money instantly refunded.

DRY GOODS CATALOG IS FREE. It contains descriptions and quoted actual wholesale prices on million dollar stocks of dry goods and notions. Write John M. Smyth Co., Chicago, to-day for dress pattern or catalog.

SEND ONE DOLLAR

and ninety nine cents and we will send **BIG 7-YARD DRESS** of fine black a **CODDS PATTERN** broad

Purkeller cloth, woven in France from selected yarns in rich elaborate patterns, suitable for young and old, a firm, fast color fabric, 36 inches wide, good weight for year around wear, same dress pattern in exclusive dry goods stores would cost \$4.00. Guaranteed exactly as described or money instantly refunded.

TOP BUGGY \$28.95

Fully described and illustrated in our **FREE VEHICLE CATALOG** together with other Top Buggies at \$34.95 up, Surreys at \$48.00 up, Trap at \$75.00 up, Phaetons at \$62.00 up, Road Wagons at \$33.95 up, and a complete line of Spring Wagons, Town Wagons, Road Cars, etc.

We are exclusive agents of well-known factories, sell our vehicles to the consumer at the actual cost of material and labor with the manufacturer's small profit added, and guarantee our rigs fully: 75,000 now in use. Write JOHN M. SMYTH CO., Chicago, to-day, for Free Vehicle Catalog.

SINGLE HARNESS \$4.50

up. Double Harness \$13.90 up. Faultless' guaranteed Harness, the best in the world, made strong and neat by expert harness makers, from best quality selected oak tan harness leather. All

Harness Containing Everything in Horse Goods, Makers' supplies, styles, biggest assortment, manufactured prices.

Writing Goods including Mingo needles at \$1.80 up, heavy stock needles at \$6.25 up and fly nets, strap work, harness makers' tools, etc., at actual wholesale prices. Write JOHN M. SMYTH CO., Chicago, to-day for harness catalog.

REFERENCES? Write to any Chicago bank or business house or any man, woman or child in Chicago.

No sir, never, but it happened a number of times across the river just the same, but I never found any trace," replied Vetchy.

"You bring your candy-cart to my place Vetchy, to-morrow noon, and leave it in the same place, and go to the stable for a drink of water just as you did before," said Mr. Headly.

PORTRAITS OF POPULAR PUBLIC PEOPLE OF WORLD-WIDE FAME.



1.

Senator and Mrs. Chauncey Depew.
1. U. S. Senator Chauncey M. Depew, of New York, the best known American citizen, after the President, and notwithstanding his past his three-score and ten years, he sailed over to Europe not long ago and married a young lady in Nice, Italy, who is about half his age. She was an American lady, Miss Palmer. The picture was taken as they came from the church in Nice, after the wedding.

Florizel Reuter.

2. Usually the famous musicians who play or sing in this country are foreigners, but Florizel Reuter is an American born boy, only ten years old, and his playing of the violin promises that when he has become a man grown he will be one of the greatest violinists of the world.

William C. Whitney.

3. Americans are always so busy making money that they never seem to have time to quit, but William C. Whitney, ex-Secretary of the Navy, and one of the most active millionaires in the United States, has announced that he will retire from business and rest for the balance of his life. Mr. Whitney is sixty years old.

Isaac Brock.

4. The oldest man in the United States is said to be Isaac Brock of Valley Mills, Texas. He was born in Buncombe County, North Carolina, March 8, 1788, and is now one hundred and fourteen years old, which is vouched for by records. He was hale and hearty at last accounts. He has seen twenty-two presidents elected.

Mrs. Daniel S. Lamont.

5. The women of the United States, who go abroad, have become so wrought up over the treatment they receive from the hands of customs officials when they return to this country that they have organized a crusade for reform. Among those well known is Mrs. Daniel S. Lamont, wife of Col. Daniel S. Lamont, former Secretary of War under President Cleveland, and now Vice-President of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Mrs. Lamont lives in New York City.

Thomas B. Reed.

6. A few years ago the newspapers were full of Speaker Read of Congress, known as "Czar" Reed, because of his arbitrary rulings. Lately Mr. Reed has lived quietly in New York City as a lawyer, and his name came up recently as a possible selection by President Roosevelt for a cabinet position, but the places are all filled now and Mr. Reed is still in private life.

William Shakespeare.

7. Just at present literary circles in England are discussing the great question of who wrote Shakespeare's famous plays. For years some have contended that they were written by Francis Bacon, and recently an American woman, Mrs. Sarah Gallup, has been unraveling the "Baconian Cipher" in that country to such an extent that Shakespeare is in danger of losing his glory.

Nicholas Murray Butler.

8. One of the greatest colleges in the United States, Columbia, of New York City, lost its President, Seth Low, when he was recently elected Mayor of New York, and Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, who has been connected with the college for twenty-four years, has been named as his successor. President Butler is not yet forty years of age.

James B. McCreary.

9. Senator Deboe, the only Republican United States Senator ever elected in Kentucky, is not to be given a second trial, but will be succeeded by ex-Governor McCreary, who was recently elected. Governor McCreary was a member of Congress for many years, after serving as Governor of his state.

Gen. Fred G. Funston.

10. Every reader of COMFORT has heard of Gen. Funston of Kansas, who is the "fightin'-est" man in the Philippines. He has been home on furlough for some weeks and has undergone a successful operation for appendicitis, and like a brave soldier is going back to fight some more if need be.

The King of Spain.

11, 12. Alfonso XIII., the young King of Spain, born 1886, is to be crowned at Madrid, in May, a month before the coronation of King Edward of Great Britain. He is a bright and ambitious boy, but not robust, and he is fond of the army. The United States will be represented at the coronation by Dr. J. L. M. Curry, U. S. Minister at Madrid when Alfonso was born.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.



12.



13.



14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

Lewis Nixon and Richard Croker.

13, 14. Lewis Nixon, better known as a naval constructor, and for designing the famous battleship Oregon, has recently come into particular prominence as the successor of Richard Croker, the leader of the great democratic organization in New York City, known as Tammany. Mr. Nixon was born in Virginia, and is not yet forty. Mr. Croker announces that he will retire to his horse farm at Wantage, England, but it is believed he will return when the fight begins against the reform administration which went into office January 1st, 1902.

The English Coronation.

15, 16, 17. King Edward VII. of Great Britain, whom Americans have known so long as the Prince of Wales, is to be crowned in June, and the occasion will be one of the notable events of history. The United States will be represented by Hon. Whitelaw Reid, editor of the New York Tribune, as Special Ambassador, Gen. James H. Wilson, U. S. A. representing the Army, and Captain Charles E. Clark, who brought the warship Oregon almost round the world to fight in Cuban waters, representing the Navy.

Oscar S. Straus.

18. One of the recent great events was the meeting in New York City of the National Civic Federation at which representatives of capital and of labor discussed for several days the questions at issue between them. Hon. Oscar Straus of New York City presided, and one result was the appointment of a standing committee of thirty-six members to settle disputes and prevent strikes. Mr. Straus was appointed minister to Turkey by President Cleveland and again by President McKinley. He is a Hebrew, and represented a Christian government at a Mohammedan Court.

King Edward.

19. The new British coinage bears on one side, the head of King Edward, and this picture shows fairly well the appearance of the coin with a good portrait of the King.

President of Switzerland.

20. The little republic of Switzerland, set down in the midst of kings and thrones, goes right onward with its republican ideas and government, and recently elected a new President, Dr. Zemp, whose portrait shows him to be a "well favored" man.

Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler.

21. Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, known to religious people all over the world, recently celebrated his eightieth birthday. It is said over two hundred million copies of his sermons have been printed, and that over four thousand articles from his pen have appeared in religious periodicals.

Mrs. Croly.

22. For many years the writings of Mrs. Croly, better known as "Jennie June," have been read and enjoyed by people in all parts of this country and the world, but her pen is stilled and she will write no more. She died recently at the age of seventy-two.

Thomas Estrada Palma.

23. The first president of the Republic of Cuba is Thomas Estrada Palma who for a long time was the agent of Cuba in the United States and the most active person in keeping alive the spirit of independence. For eighteen years he lived in Orange county, N. Y. and had a school for Spanish-American children. Five of his six children were born there. He is sixty years of age. He received the vote of fifty-five electors as against eight for his opponent, Gen. Bartolome Maso.

Signor Guglielmo Marconi.

24, 25. For months the world has been talking about Marconi and his wireless telegraph, by which he sends messages without the aid of wires, as is done by the ordinary telegraph. But recently the world has stopped talking about that, to talk about the breaking of his engagement to be married to Miss Josephine Bowen Holman of Indianapolis, Ind. No one knows why it was broken, but gossips say it was because Signor Marconi learned that Miss Holman was a poor girl instead of the millionaire he thought her to be. Signor Marconi is only twenty-seven years old.

Prince Henry of Germany.

26. The American people do not often have an opportunity to hobnob with Princes, as the saying is, but lately they have been showing Prince Henry, brother to Emperor William of Germany, a great deal of attention. The Prince came over to represent his brother at the launching of the Emperor's yacht at Shooter Island, near New York. The building of this yacht was a great tribute to the skill of the American yacht builders. Prince Henry is thirty-nine years old and has a wife and three children.

Herbert Putnam.

27. One of the greatest libraries in the world, and which is housed in the finest library building ever erected, is the Congressional Library at Washington, D. C. The building cost over six million of dollars and it contains hundreds of thousands of books. The Librarian of Congress, is Mr. Herbert Putnam, formerly of the great Boston Free Library.

The Philippine Commission.

28, 29, 30. The Philippine Commission, with Governor Taft at the head is rendering valuable service in treating with the various problems growing out of the control of the Philippines by the United States, and the three native, or Filipino, members, are men who are worthy of the highest praise. They are Senor Benito Legardo, Dr. T. H. Pardo de Tavera, and Senor Jose Ruiz de Luzuriaga. These men have recently written a series of valuable opinions on the relations between the Islands and the United States and they are no less loyal to their country than they are to the United States.

Earl of Minto.

31, 32. The nearest representative of royalty to the United States is the Governor-General of Canada, who is at present, the Earl of Minto, and a very popular man. He is an athlete and a fine horseman, and he has had military experience in France during the Commune riots at Paris, in the Russo-Turkish war, under Lord Roberts in India and in South Africa, and later in Egypt. In 1883 he was military secretary to the Marquis of Lorne, then Governor-General of Canada. His wife, the Countess of Minto, is as popular as her husband and she has done much in harmonizing the conflicting conditions which exist among the different peoples and religions of Canada. She is a descendant of the famous Indian Princess, Pocahontas, and is in that far an American.

Mr. and Mrs. Payne Whitney.

33, 34. All the world loves a lover, they say, and at least all the fashionable and official world seemed to be particularly fond of Mr. Payne Whitney, the son of ex-Secretary of the Navy Whitney, and Miss Helen Hay, the daughter of Hon. John Hay, Secretary of State, whose wedding in Washington last month was one of the most notable events socially that has occurred in recent years. Both the young people are the children of very wealthy parents, and as their friends are among those people, their wedding presents represented many thousand of dollars. Mr. Whitney is a popular young man, and his wife, as Helen Hay, has made quite a name for herself as a writer.

Cornelius Vanderbilt.

35. It is not often that the multi-millionaire, especially when he is young and wants to have all the enjoyments of life, takes to work and politics but young Cornelius Vanderbilt of New York is an exception. He went to work as a railroad machinist with the New York Central Railroad, controlled by his family, and last year invented a new tender for locomotives which has been adopted by many leading roads. He is in the offices of the great road, but with the incoming of the reform administration of the city of New York he accepted the position of Civil Service Commissioner tendered him by Mayor Seth Low, and already has shown that he is well fitted for his new duties. It may be said of the Vanderbilts that they are about the best types of our rich people. Mr. Vanderbilt has thirty patents pending for improvements in locomotives, and he is about thirty years old.

The Italian Ambassador.

36. For a great many years Italy's representative to the United States, Baron Fava, was noted for his penuriousness, and evident lack of desire to take any part in the duties of his post, further than those he could not avoid. At present Italy has as its Ambassador to this country a man who stands high in the diplomatic world, Signor Edmondo Mayor des Planches. He was a friend of Bismarck and of Crispi, and they taught him. He is fifty years of age.

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.

37. President Roosevelt and family, and the country at large, were much agitated early in February, by the illness with pneumonia of Theodore, Jr., a bright youngster of fourteen years, who is at school at Groton, Mass. Theodore is fond of athletics, and he is one of the few who can keep up with the President on the long walks he takes.

Admiral von Tirpitz.

38. One of the royal party accompanying Prince Henry on his visit to this country was Admiral von Tirpitz, who besides being an Admiral in the German navy is the imperial secretary of the Navy. As his picture shows he is a fine specimen of the Teutonic race.

M. De Witte.

39. The name of M. de Witte is of almost daily appearance in the newspapers when Russia is referred to, and he is one of the greatest financiers of the world. He is a self-made man and was Director of Railroads preceding his appointment as Minister of Finance. Russia is one of our best friends, if not the best, in Europe, and her progress in the past few years has been almost equal to our own, notwithstanding it is an absolute monarchy.

Marshall Field.

40. Probably the greatest merchant in the world today is Marshall Field of Chicago, who by legitimate business methods has risen from a poor boy in Conway, Mass., where he was born sixty-six years ago, to be worth over one hundred millions of dollars. His great store in Chicago does a business of fifty millions a year, and he is interested in dozens of business ventures being the controlling spirit in most of them. He is less heard of in public affairs than any other rich man in the country. Mr. Field's charities amount to millions. He is a widower with two children.



For the enlightenment and benefit of its subscribers, COMFORT has inaugurated this department under the title of COMFORT'S AT-HOME LAWYER, wherein will be carefully and correctly solved any legal problem which may be submitted. All opinions given herein will be prepared at our expense by eminent counsel.

Lawsuits can frequently be avoided by timely and judicious advice concerning matters in dispute; this, however, can only be done by one who is fully conversant with his/her legal rights and privileges. This department will also prove of great value and interest from an educational standpoint, as it will be answered any proper legal question that may be propounded.

Inasmuch as it is one of the principal missions of COMFORT to aid in upholding and upholding the sanctity of the home, no advice will be given on matters pertaining to divorce.

Any yearly subscriber to COMFORT fully paid in advance is welcome to submit inquiries, which, so far as possible, will be answered in this department. If any reader, other than a subscriber, wishes to take advantage of this privilege, it may be done by sending twenty-five (25) cents, in silver or stamps, for an annual subscription to COMFORT thus obtaining all the benefits which our subscribers enjoy including a copy of the magazine for one year.

Should any subscriber desire an immediate, special opinion on any legal question, privately mailed, it may be had by sending one dollar with a letter asking such advice, addressing the same to "THE EDITOR, COMFORT'S AT-HOME LAWYER," Augusta, Maine, and in reply a carefully prepared opinion will be sent in an early mail.

All names and addresses must be signed by all persons seeking advice in this column, but not necessarily for publication. Unless otherwise requested, initials only will be published.

John J.—The judges of the Federal Courts are not elected: they are appointed by the President and hold their office for life. The judges of the Circuit Courts of the United States receive a salary of \$6,000 a year; those of the United States District Courts receive \$5,000 a year.

Stratton.—Under a recent decision of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, certain forms of endowment and tontine life insurance policies having what is known as a "cash-surrender value," even though payable to the wife of the insured, as beneficiary, are liable to seizure by creditors in case of the bankruptcy of the insured.

H. G. W.—A separate acknowledgment by a wife of a debt to real estate is required in the following states: Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. It is not necessary in Vermont.

B. S.—There is no law to prevent a person from making his or her own will, though as a rule it is a dangerous practice owing to technicalities which no one but a lawyer would understand. If you should write your own, be sure to have it properly witnessed by at least three disinterested persons signing their names to it in your presence and in the presence of each other. You must definitely state to them that the document which they are about to sign is your last will and testament and request that they sign their names as witnesses thereto.

N. F.—A marriage between an uncle and a niece would be within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity and therefore absolutely void under the laws of nearly every civilized community in the entire world. Legally, the children of such a union would be illegitimate.

A. J. M.—Under the laws of Colorado, the summons in a case need not be served on you in person. If it is left at your known place of residence with a member of your household of lawful age, the notice of the action would be legal and binding on you.

Debtor.—Bankruptcy proceedings discharge a party from all his indebtedness, except such as were fraudulently or dishonestly contracted. To obtain such a discharge an action must be begun in the District Court of the United States in which the debtor lives. This can only be done through a local lawyer.

N. P.—A father is compelled by law to provide his minor children with the necessities of life for their maintenance and support. What would be considered as "necessaries" depends entirely upon the station in life of the parties concerned.

F. P. G.—Many of the states have of late passed laws making it a criminal offense to use the U. S. flag for advertising purposes. In a very recent decision, the Supreme Court of Illinois decided that such a law was unconstitutional. It does not follow, however, that a similar interpretation of the law would be handed down by the Courts of last resort of other states. The Illinois Supreme Court can only interpret the laws of its own jurisdiction.

St. Louis.—The coming World's Fair in your city was authorized by an Act of Congress to provide for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana territory by the United States during the administration of Thomas Jefferson. Five million (\$5,000,000) dollars was appropriated for this purpose and in addition thereto, the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand (\$250,000) dollars for a suitable government building.

"Lincoln."—Lincoln's birthday (Feb. 12th) is a legal holiday in the following states—Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wyoming. Washington's birthday (Feb. 22nd) is a legal holiday in every State in the Union, excepting Mississippi, where it is observed in the public schools only.

M. L.—The 12th Census of the United States was taken under an Act of Congress passed March 3rd, 1890 and covers population, agriculture, mortality and manufactures. The reports are not yet completed but the law provides that they must be fully published prior to July 1st, 1902.

F. A. S.—A marshal or constable has no right to break outer doors or forcibly enter a dwelling place. However, having once entered, he is at liberty to break inner doors in the proper performance of his duties such as an endeavor to levy on personal property, execute a search warrant, or other like matters.

F. W.—In a criminal proceeding for felony, such as you mention, a justice of the peace can sit only as a committing magistrate and not as a trial judge. He has no power, as a rule, to determine the actual guilt or innocence of the accused. His sole purpose is to ascertain whether there is probable cause to hold the accused for trial. In case no probable cause is shown by the evidence adduced, the accused should be discharged. A felony is an offense punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary.

A. B. S.—The statute of limitations varies in different states, and for different causes of action. In your state (Ills) no action can be brought on an open book account after the lapse of five years from the maturity of the account or the date of the last payment—if any—on it. A party sued who desires to take advantage of this statute, must specially invoke its aid by pleading it. That is, his lawyer must raise it as a defense on the trial of the action.

A married woman is not entitled to a pension because of the death of her son in the government service, as the result of injuries received in warfare, unless she was wholly dependent upon such son for her support.

T. L.—There is no law which prohibits the President of the United States from leaving the country during his term of office. None have ever done so, so far as we can learn. If President Roosevelt desired to pay a visit abroad, there is no legal reason why he may not do so.

Minor.—As a rule, under most if not all of the states, a minor has a right to choose his own guardian after arriving at the age of fourteen years. The rule applies to boys and girls alike.

Inquirer.—If your deceased friend has any money on deposit in a bank, it can only be drawn out by an administrator appointed by your widows' and orphans' court.

J. P. L.—Under the laws of Texas, husband and wife have equal rights in all property acquired during their married life.

F. O.—A note written in lead pencil is just as good as though written in ink. It is a mistake to believe otherwise.

A New Discovery That Cures Consumption

By Special Arrangement with the Doctor, Four Free Preparations (the Slocum System) will be Sent to all Readers of COMFORT for the Asking.

HERE IS HEALTH

These Four New Preparations comprise a complete new treatment for Consumption and nearly all the ills of life.

The Food Emulsion is needed by some, the Emulsion and Tonic by others, the Expectorant by others, the Ozolell Cure for Catarrh by others still and all four, or any three, or two, or any one, may be used singly or in combination, according to the needs of the case. Full instructions with each set of four free remedies, represented in this illustration. Also 68-page My Doctor Book.



EDITOR'S NOTE.—The Slocum System of Treatment for the cure of Coughs, Catarrh, Bronchitis, Lung Troubles and Consumption is medicine reduced to an exact science by America's foremost specialist, and our readers are urged to take advantage of this generous offer. Address DR. T. A. SLOCUM, 98 Pine Street, New York.

These four remedies represent a New system of treatment and cure for the Weak and those suffering from Consumption, wasting away diseases, or inflammatory conditions of Nose, Throat and Lungs.

The treatment is Free. Write for it.

By the new system devised by DR. SLOCUM, the great specialist in pulmonary and kindred diseases, all the requirements of the sick body are supplied by the FOUR remedies constituting his Special Treatment known as The Slocum System.

Whatever your disease, one or more of these four preparations will be of wonderful benefit to you.

According to the needs of your case, fully explained in the treatise given free with the free remedies, you may take one, or any two, or three, or all four, in combination.

A cure is certain.

The remedies are especially adapted for those who suffer from weak lungs, coughs, sore throat, Catarrh, Consumption and other pulmonary troubles.

But they are also of wonderful efficacy to the building up of weak systems, in purifying the blood, making flesh and restoring to weak, sallow people rich and healthy constitutions.

The many ailments of women and delicate children are speedily relieved.

The basis of the entire system is a flesh-building, nerve and tissue renewing food.

Every invalid and sick person needs strength. This food gives it.

Many people get the complete system for the sake of the Perfected Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil combined with Guaiacol, which they themselves need, and give away the other three preparations to their friends.

The second article is Psychine Tonic. It is good for weak, thin, dyspeptic, nervous people. For those who have no appetite, who need bracing up.

The third preparation is a medicinal healing Ozolell Cure for Catarrh, in a patent Ozolell nasal tube. It cures catarrh. It heals all irritation of the nose, throat and mucous membranes. It gives immediate relief. It is also a splendid application for sore lips and rough skin.

The fourth article is Coltsfoote's Expectorant and Cough and Cold cure. The only expectorant that can positively be relied upon. Is absolutely safe for children. Goes to the very root of the trouble, and not merely alleviates, but cures.

The four remedies form a panoply of strength against disease in whatever shape it may attack you. Sold by all druggists.

THE FREE TRIAL

To obtain these four Free preparations, illustrated above, please mention reading this in COMFORT, and write to

DR. T. A. SLOCUM, 98 Pine St., New York,

giving full address. The four Free remedies will then be sent you, direct from the laboratories, in the hope that if they do you good you will recommend them to your friends. When writing the Doctor please tell him you read this in COMFORT, and give address in full, postoffice and express, and greatly oblige.

HITES, Allegheny Co., Pa.,
DR. T. A. SLOCUM, Oct. 26, 1901.

DEAR SIR:—I wish to recommend your medicine in the very highest terms for curing me of Consumption, when the doctors all gave me up.

Yours respectfully,
C. A. CHRISTIE.

CATONSVILLE, (Sta. A.), Baltimore, Md.,
DR. T. A. SLOCUM, Oct. 28, 1901.

DEAR SIR:—I received your samples of medicine, took them, bought more of a druggist and am now cured of my complaint. Thanking you for your kindness, I am,

Yours truly,
ROY A. MOLESWORTH.



(So many inquiries are made by "Comfort" readers concerning real estate (country and city) farms and locations for homes that this column has become a necessity and here we shall be glad to answer all questions.)

Any paid subscriber who desires to make a change in their present situation or are in any way uncomfortable in their abode and want information about any particular location in any State in the Union can address "The Comfort Home Finder," Augusta, Maine, and we will try and serve them.

H. A. D. Hope, Idaho.—There are thousands of acres of land in Virginia which may be had for the taxes. In some instances this makes the land worth even less than homestead prices in the West. Much of this Virginia land is old and poor, but it answers readily to fertilizing and care, and the climate is greatly in its favor. Schools and churches abound and there is a welcome awaiting any good citizen who comes from the North or elsewhere. A land circular has been sent to you with details.

Mrs. H. G., Nashville, Tenn.—Land in Blue Grass Kentucky is worth from \$50 to \$150 an acre, but if you are now living on a farm near Nashville, you are in very nearly as fine a country as the Blue Grass section is. Unless you can get a very good price, indeed, for your place, we advise you to remain where you are.

Inquirer, Akron, Ohio.—The so-called abandoned farms of Massachusetts are pretty generally distributed about the state, and their prices are remarkably low, many farms being offered for less than the houses on them cost. Some of these abandoned farms have proved to be good investments, and very few of them are not worth their price, provided an active, progressive farmer gets hold of one. You can get all the information you need, short of personal acquaintance, by writing to the Secretary of Agriculture, Boston, Mass.

Indio, Sunbury, Pa.—Steubenville is the county seat of Jefferson county, Ohio, with a population of about 15,000, paved streets, trolley lines, fine public buildings, numerous churches and schools, and a cultivated, Christian and hospitable people, whose thrift is seen all over their progressive city. Politically the town is republican. A good home may be bought for from \$1,500 to \$3,000, and rents are from twelve dollars and a half, per month, up, for such as you describe.

K. L. G., Haverhill, Mass.—We would not advise your removal to the Pacific coast on Puget Sound until you had thoroughly informed yourself of the country. The climate is very mild, never hot or cold, but it is very damp, and as yet farming is in its infancy, and will never get much beyond that stage, except in the raising of certain kinds of fruits, dairy products, poultry and eggs. Clearing the ground is very expensive as the timber is of enormous growth and the soil is filled with roots. It is also too wet for any of the grain crops. East of the Cascade Range, however, all these conditions are changed, and no finer wheat and fruit crops are raised in the world than here. Yes, the official you mention is perfectly reliable, and you may believe what he tells you.

Tired Out, Rockville, Vt.—Your story of the hard times you have had for ten years on "Rocky Farm," is interesting, and if you gave it up and went down into the Eastern Shore of Maryland with the five thousand dollars you could raise, you could buy a very fine place and still have a little to put in the bank. The metropolis of the Eastern Shore is Easton or Oxford, and land in that vicinity is worth from \$30 to \$60 an acre, and good land, too. The wheat and fruit are particularly fine, and rail and water transportation are ample. Washington, D. C. is only about two hours away and Baltimore, about three. The climate is mild all the year, as it is tempered by the sea. But Vermont is further from the Eastern Shore than the map shows and as you have lived all your life in the Green Mountain state, you would better try the South awhile before pulling up stakes in the North.

J. W. E., Whitewater, Wis.—We do not know who has informed you that land in the mountain portion of Kentucky is valuable for farming purposes, but whoever it is is evidently trying to obtain your money under false pretenses. Some farms, along the tributaries of the Kentucky, Big Sandy and Cumberland rivers, make a living for their owners, but that is about all. Back from the watercourses the land may have some timber or mineral value, or may not. If not, you can buy all you want for twenty-five cents an acre, or less.

N. Y. T., Cairo, Ills.—You cannot do much in raising sugar in Louisiana unless you have some capital. Better try something more suitable to small farming.

G. M., Terra Alta, W. Va.—Write to Col. T. G. Stuart, Winchester, Ky.

J. O. McD., Warrenton, Mo.—A turpentine orchard of four or five thousand trees, covering, say, about 200 acres may be rented in North Carolina at \$50 a crop, or year, and the profit is from a dollar to a dollar and a quarter an acre. It is customary to have about twenty orchards to the plant, which requires a capital of about \$5,000. Your family would not find it desirable to live in the immediate neighborhood of the orchards, but there are towns with excellent society and all advantages at no great distance where you could at least spend your Sundays at home.

Miss D. Austin, Mich.—Such a home as you desire in Hartford, Conn. could not be purchased for less than \$10,000, if it could be secured at all. Hartford is a home town of very well-to-do people, and those who have pleasant homes do not want to sell, unless—which is the Yankee in them—they can get every cent the place is worth, and have another view in view that they can get at a bargain.

Two Young Men, Ozark, Ark.—Don't try farming in Cuba unless you have a good deal more than one thousand dollars each. Cuba is all right for development by people from the United States, but the developers must have plenty of money and know what they are going to do before they begin. If you have two thousand dollars between you, and are tired of farming in Arkansas, why not go into some sort of small manufacturing for local consumption?

HE latest novelty in the omnipresent nickel-in-the-slot machine is said to be an automatic device for blacking boots. The customer drops the necessary coin that starts the machine in motion, and then thrusts his foot into one compartment where his shoe is brushed. In another compartment the shoe is covered with blacking, and in the third it is polished, the whole operation taking about a minute and a half. The progress of the operation is indicated upon a dial.



KITCHEN CHATS

CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



HE request having come from one of our readers for a recipe for white fruit cake, we give a recipe herewith, and illustrate it as a birthday cake.

WHITE FRUIT CAKE.

Cream one-half cup butter. Add one cup sugar, half a pound blanched almonds, shredded, three-fourths pound of citron cut fine, and three-fourths pound of fresh cocoanut, grated. Beat the whites of five eggs until dry, add part to the cake mixture, then almond extract, one drop. Mix well. Add one-half teaspoon and three-fourths cups flour sifted with one teaspoon baking powder and the remainder of the beaten whites of eggs. Bake in an angel pie tin, cover with boiled frosting flavored with lemon and mixed with grated cocoanut.

An ingenious woman has found a way to fix candles on the top of birthday cakes. In the flame of a candle she heats the eye end of a needle, pushing it while warm into the lower end of each small candle. The needle point pressed through the icing makes the tiniest puncture, permitting, too, the closer use of the candle, often desirable for a birthday count. If desired, tiny stars or circles may be cut from gilt or colored paper, the needle slipped through so that the paper forms a little mat on which the candle rests.

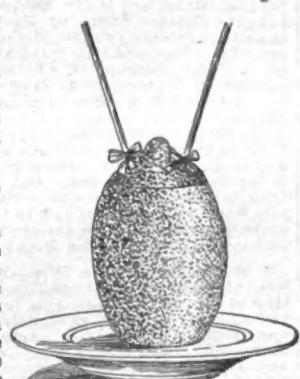
We have been asked for a new recipe for cake to be baked in small scalloped tins, and think the following will be about what is desired.

GENOISE CAKE.

The weight of three eggs in sugar, butter and flour, one-fourth teaspoon salt, one tablespoon brandy, one-half cup blanched and finely-chopped almonds, one-fourth cup finely-chopped citron and an additional egg yolk. Cream the butter, add sugar gradually and eggs one at a time without first beating them. Beat three minutes between the addition of the eggs, then add remaining ingredients. Bake in small scalloped tins.

NUT LAYER CAKE.

Cream one-half cup butter. Add gradually one cup and a half of sugar, then half a cup of milk, one teaspoonful of vanilla extract, two and one-fourth cups of flour, sifted with one-fourth teaspoonful of soda and three-fourths teaspoonful of cream of tartar. Lastly beat in the whites of five eggs. Spread in two layer-cake pans. Press halves of English walnuts into the top of one of the layers, to make lengthwise rows of nut-meats. Sprinkle the whole with white sugar, and bake about twenty minutes. Put the layers together with



LEMON CUP.

CHOCOLATE NUT FROSTING.
Boil one cup of sugar and half a cup of water, until it threads when tried with a spoon. Pour in a fine stream, beating constantly, onto the beaten yolks of two eggs. Then pour this mixture onto a square of melted chocolate, add the chopped meats remaining from a pound of unshelled nuts, and half a teaspoonful of vanilla extract, and beat until cold enough to spread.

Someone wants to know how to make

PEPPERMINT DROPS.

Boil together five minutes two cups of sugar and one-half cup boiling water. Take from stove and add pinch of cream of tartar. Stir well. Add seven drops oil of peppermint, beat well until mixture whitens. Drop quickly on buttered paper.

At a small dinner party, the souvenirs were small beer steins, in which was served the ice. It was frozen pudding, and after the Stein had been nearly filled, whipped cream was piled on top, and allowed to run down the sides of the Steins, giving the appearance of the foam on beer. The guests were quite pleased with the idea, as well as with the souvenir.

A unique way of serving grape juice, at a luncheon for warm weather, is inside of a lemon. A small slice is cut from one end of the lemon to allow it to stand securely on a plate. Then the top is cut off to form a cover. The inside is carefully removed



CREAM A LA STEIN.

securely on a plate. Then the top is cut off to form a cover. The inside is carefully removed

from both lemon and cover, and the shell is filled with cool grape juice. The cover is then put on, two small round holes are punctured in the cover, two straws inserted, and where they disappear through the hole dainty bows of ribbon of the color scheme of the luncheon are tied. The slight flavor of the lemon is a pleasant addition to the grape juice flavor.

Sometime ago a reader living in Bullock's Corners, Ontario, Canada, wrote us for a recipe for Molasses Pie. We regret that we are unable to find a recipe. Should be glad to have



BIRTHDAY CAKE.

any of our readers send us such a recipe, then we will print it for the benefit of our correspondent.



Salt and vinegar, applied to the fingers, will remove ink stains.

Add a little borax to flour paste to increase its adhesive qualities.

Yellow dock, root or leaves, steeped in vinegar will cure the worst case of ringworm.

Dried tansy leaves are said to be good to drive away ants if placed where they congregate.

A spoonful of vinegar added to the water in poaching eggs will keep them from spreading.

The white of an egg brushed over a slight burn will exclude the air and check the smart at once.

Two drops of essence of peppermint in an ounce of water make an excellent wash for the eyes.

To make a linseed poultice gradually sprinkle four ounces of linseed into a half pint of hot water.

Fiat iron should never be allowed to become red hot, as they afterwards never retain the heat properly.

Sixty grains of paraffine wax, two ounces of chloroform and three drops of oil of rose is good for a finger nail polish.

Small lumps of charcoal scattered about the corners of cellars and closets will absorb much of the dampness and bad odors.

Skinned milk is better for washing oil cloth or linoleum than water is as it makes it fresher and brightens its polish.

When whalebone is too bent for use soak it for several hours in warm water, and dry on a flat surface. It will then be as straight as new.

Bread, cakes or pie should never be put away in a closed safe, or box, until perfectly cold; otherwise they will become soggy and heavy.

A strong solution of lye, applied with a stiff brush on a long handle to protect the hands, will be found excellent in removing stains from floors.

One part yellow wax and two and a half parts of turpentine make a simple floor wax. Apply with a brush, and polish with woolen cloth.

Put a metal spoon or fork in a glass or china dish before pouring hot water into it. The metal conducts the heat away and the dish will not crack so readily.

Hands that begin to show the effects of being long in hot water may be softened and refreshed by washing them in a mixture of equal parts of lemon juice and alcohol.

A better way to dry wet shoes than to set them by the fire is to fill them with hot bran or grain. This draws the moisture out more evenly and maintains the shape of the shoes.

Millions in Missouri Mines.

If women who want spending money would put \$5.00 or \$10.00 in the new Fortuna Mining Company, that is being organized by W. H. Graffis, of the "Sentinel," at Sedalia, Mo., they would in a few short weeks have a permanent and handsome income. The original Fortuna mine, only opened last October, is already making \$1,000 a day, clear money.

A GENTS, credit, Flavor Powders, etc. Big Profits, Ex. Pd. Terms Free. Martens Co., Box 40, Sta. L, New York.

Belgian Hares Money in them. Booklet for stamp. Belgian Hare Co., Mechanic Falls, Me.

\$5.00 per 1000 paid to distribute circulars. Contract for 4 stamps. Dist'l's Guarantee Co., Chicago.

\$8 Paid Per 100 for Distributing Samples of Washing Fluid. Send 6c. stamp. A. W. SCOTT, Cohoes, N. Y.

WED 5,000 WANT TO MARRY? LISTS AND PICTURES FREE. WALTER McDONNELL, C. St., Chicago, Ill.

WANTED AGENTS in every county to sell "Family Memorials;" good profits and steady work. Address, CAMPBELL & CO., 10 Plum St., Elgin, Ill.

CONSUMERS and agents send for big list solely concerned household articles, novelties, etc. Something for everybody. Patent Devices Co., Bldg. Chicago.

WANTED Young men to learn telegraphy. Situations soon as qualified. F. WHITEMAN, Chatham, N. Y.

Rods For locating gold and silver. Positively guaranteed. From \$5 up. Catalogue and testimonials free. A. L. BRYANT, Box 10, R Dallas, Tex.

WATCH FREE FOR SELLING 20 Packages Flower Seeds at 10 cents. We trust you. WORLD SEED CO., BOSTON, MASS.

DETECTIVE Shrewd, reliable man wanted in every locality. Act under orders. No experience needed. American Detective Ass'n, Indianapolis, Ind.

RUPTURE CURED while you work. You pay \$4 when cured. No cure, no pay. ALEX. SPEIRS, Box 830, WESTBROOK, MAINE.

ASTHMA Instant relief & positive cure. Sample mailed free to any sufferer. "Physician" Box 36, Augusta, Maine.

Agent's Outfit Free.—Delight, Biscuit, Cake and Doughnut Cutters, Apple Corer, and Strainer. 5 articles in one. Sets on sight. Large Catalogue free. RICHARDSON MFG. CO., Dept. C, BATH, N. Y.

LADIES TO DO SEWING AT HOME; \$1.50 a day; four months work sent prepaid; send stamped addressed envelope for sample and particulars. R. W. HUTTON & CO., Dept. 4, Phila., Pa.

\$33 **\$33 On Credit**
Elegant top BUGGY \$33.00, cash or easy monthly payments. We trust honest people located in all parts of the world. Write for free catalogue No. 37.

CENTURY MFG. CO., EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL.

COMFORT.



THE NATURAL BODY BRACE
CURES ALIMENTS OF WOMEN
Female Weakness, Inflammations, Internal Pains, Lassitude, Backache, Headache, Nervousness, Indigestion, Melancholy, Lung Diseases.

TRIAL FREE

It brings health, comfort, attractiveness. Wholly external. Worn with or without corsets. Simple, comfortable, adjustable to fit any figure. Invaluable to the prospective mother. We receive from 10,000 to 20,000 letters every year like the following:

Rushville, N. Y., June 2, 1901.

I had been ailing for fifteen years from backache, headache, constipation and prolapsus. I had been treated by some of the best specialists in the country without avail. Your brace cured me. The organs have gone back to proper position and remain there to this day. Yours truly, G. C. Shuman.

Free trial for 30 days. Particulars and illustrated book, mailed free in plain, sealed envelope. Write today to

THE NATURAL BODY BRACE CO.
HOWARD C. RASH, M.C.H.
BOX 27, SALINA, KANSAS.



AXION ELASTIC TRUSS
RUPTURE CURED!
WORN DAY and NIGHT with comfort. Holds the worst rupture during most violent exercise. Perfect comfort. Radical cure. Only Elastic Truss protected by U. S. Patents and Trade Mark. Two New Patents just issued.

Great improvements. Send for illustrated catalogue to Dept. S, Axion Mfg. Co., 744 Broadway, New York.

FREE TO AGENTS
Flat thin knife cuts loose a perfect cake. \$1.00 outfit free, prepaid. Dept. X
HOUSEHOLD NOVELTY WORKS, Chicago, Ill., or Buffalo, N. Y.

STEADY HOME WORK for ladies. No canvassing; no deposit required; no worthless outfit to buy. Send stamped envelope to Dickey Mfg. Co., Dickey Building, Chicago, Ill.

TAPE-WORM SPURRED WITH GOLD, GUARANTEED. BOOKLET FREE, 15¢ POSTAGE. DEPT. D-D, 188 STATE ST., CHICAGO.

LADIES WANTED to do writing at home. Good wages. No canvassing. Send stamped envelope to reply. Miss MODELL MILLER, 300 North Carlisle, Ind.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

Spanish Needles, Rods, Goldmeters for locating Gold, Silver and hidden treasures. Our instruments are the best. Catalogue 2 cents. B. G. Stauffer, Dept. C, Harrisburg, Pa.

FORMULAS for sale for making flavoring extracts, Vanilla, Lemon, Strawberry, etc. Send 2-cent stamp for particulars. Box 314, Braddock, Pa.

JASTONISH THE WORLD PROF. BONDURANT, L. B. 1909, BOSTON, MASS.

DEAF NESS and Head Noises permanently cured. Illustrated book and month's treatment free. DR. POWELL, 23 N. Huntington Avenue, Boston, Mass.

This beautiful Turquoise or Lovers' Knot Bangle Ring is warranted three years, with initial engraved and a premium free. Send 10 cents to help pay postage. Catalogue FREE. The Shell Novelty Co., Dept. K, 194 Broadway, N. Y.

C. RICHTER IMPORTING CO., 50 LEES BLDG., CHICAGO.

We have bought a Million Watches and Razors, etc., and will give them away for almost nothing to introduce our firm. 10 sets of 25 Cigars, full size, we send this elegant solid gold plated Watch and Chain, which retails at \$4.50; excellent timekeeper. Prize Medal awarded at Paris Exposition, warranted 5 years. Shaving Set, consisting of very best high grade, hollow ground Steel and bone, double edge, straight razors, soap and Stand, \$2.00. Send your address and we send everything for examination. If fully satisfied pay \$2.00 less postage, otherwise not one cent. If you can not use all yourself sell either the Watch, or the Shaving Set, or the Cigars, for at least the same money as you paid for the whole outfit, then you save the other goods free. Address C. RICHTER IMPORTING CO., 50 LEES BLDG., CHICAGO.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

60 DAY Offer \$2.95

We have bought a Million Watches and Razors, etc., and will give them away for almost nothing to introduce our firm.

10 sets of 25 Cigars, full size, we send this elegant solid gold plated Watch and Chain, which retails at \$4.50; excellent timekeeper. Prize Medal awarded at Paris Exposition, warranted 5 years.

Shaving Set, consisting of very best high grade, hollow ground Steel and bone, double edge, straight razors, soap and Stand, \$2.00.

Send your address and we send everything for examination. If fully satisfied pay \$2.00 less postage, otherwise not one cent.

If you can not use all yourself sell either the Watch, or the Shaving Set, or the Cigars, for at least the same money as you paid for the whole outfit, then you save the other goods free.

Address C. RICHTER IMPORTING CO., 50 LEES BLDG., CHICAGO.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

THIS BEAUTIFUL WATER SET FREE!

WITH EACH CAN

"National"

High-Grade Baking Powder.

Introduce for us 20 cans among your friends and neighbors and offer each, FREE, a 7-piece Water Set with each can. For your trouble, you will receive a handsome 67-piece, gold-lined, Decorated China Dinner Set, or 25 per cent commission in cash. We pay all freight and give you time to deliver.

Write at Once for Full Set of Plans.

THE NATIONAL FAMILY SUPPLIES CO., Dept. 80, 307 S. Tenth Street, ST. LOUIS, MO.

Sudden Death

You may die any minute—anywhere. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. If you have any of the following symptoms, don't waste any time. Get my Heart Tablets at once.

Fluttering, palpitation, or skipping beats (always due to weak or diseased heart); shortness of breath from going upstairs, walking, etc.; tenderness, numbness or pain in left side, arm or under shoulder blade; fainting spells, dizziness, hungry or weak spells; spots before the eyes; sudden starting in sleep, dreaming, nightmare;

Heart Disease

choking sensation in throat; oppressed feeling in chest; cold hands and feet; painful to lie on left side; dropsy; swelling of the feet or ankles (one of the surest signs); neuralgia around the heart; sudden deaths rarely result from other causes.



Veracious Records of the Doin's in the Cobb Corner Postoffice, "Writ out" by the Boy Behind the Counter.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.] The quaint philosophers, the dry wags, the shrewd dickerers and the eminent yarn-spinners of the countryside make a forum of the country postoffice when there is room at the rear around the big stove. The stories and incidents on which some of the most successful human interest novels of the day are constructed come from the quaint loungers around the stores in Yankee communities. These official records of "Jeth's Crowd" are to be taken down month by month for the readers of "Comfort," and we hope that as you become acquainted with the members of the "Congress" your interest in their discourse and stories will deepen.

In the April number of "Comfort" the "Cobb's Corner Congress" will continue sessions.



Postmaster came out of his "pen" after he had finished distributing the mail. He is the only man in Cobb's Corner who takes a daily paper and his copy is sent to him free. Every forenoon after the mail is in the boxes he comes out and stands before the assembled members of the cracker-barrel Congress and reads aloud whatever is especially striking in the news field.

He tucked the paper under his arm as he walked forward, so as to leave his hands free. He stuffed two

more big sticks into the barrel stove.

"Reckon you old sanups would set right there on your haunches like woodchucks and let the fire go plum out," he snorted.

"Haint none of us been 'specially delegated to feed your stove for ye yet," Uncle Wack Spofford replied. "If we sh'd go to jammin' the wood in yo would be growlin' jest as bad out of the other side of your mouth. So thereye be!"

The Postmaster grunted. Then he unfolded the paper and settled his specs on the end of his nose. "There hain't no gitin' along with ye anyway," he snapped, flinging one more shaft at them. "But listen while I read ye something."

In a high-pitched, cracked voice, interrupted every now and then by a vigorous snuff The Postmaster read:

"Bide Durfee was arrested yistiddy by Constable Benner and brought to the county jail in this place. Bide is admitted to be the biggest thief that ever operated in these parts. He has spent half his life in jail but he cannot be broken of his practices.

"Two weeks ago the store of Jason Beals was closed by an attachment and a seal put on the door. It now transpires that for a week Durfee has been engaged at the back door carting off the goods. He had cleaned out the store entire of everything and if it had not been for his greed he might have escaped undetected. But he made such a disturbance one night in getting the safe out that he was apprehended by our vigilant constable and will answer to his misdeeds at the next term of court."

"Hain't that the jim-rammdest stealin' ye ever heered tell of?" demanded The Postmaster.

"I don't see much chance to brag on that for stealin'," declared Teed Strout. "Prob'y the constable is a numb-head anyway and wouldn't know any one was stealin' in the neighborhood unless the safe had dropped right square on his head. An then ag'in the critter got arrested, didn't he? 'Twa'n't no kind of a job, that wan't."

Teed rapped out the ashes from his pipe and got started before The Postmaster could interrupt.

"Let me tell ye suthin' about stealin' as was stealin'." Ever hear tell of Perk Stuttivant? Never did? Seems' though some of ye older men here ought to remember him. Tall, red-whiskered feller with eyes that kind o' toed out just as though he was looking two ways to once. Wal, he allus was! Don't ye forget that. That critter wa'n't ever arrested by no constable—that is, not to stay arrested. When I remember what Perk Stuttivant used to do, that stealin' that ye read about there in the paper seems like boy's play.

"Perk used to steal the pins out of his mother's hair when she was nussin' him. They didn't think nothin' of that for they reckined he might be playin'."

"But it was more serious one day when he stole the specs off her head while she was nappin' with him in her arms. He wa'n't hardly old enough to set up and take notice but he jammed them specs down in a hole in the back of the rockin' chair and it was more'n a week 'fore they could find 'em."

"Still they didn't think that the little tyke really meant to steal anything. But it was some diff'rent when the doctor come to vacinate him. While the doc was scratchin' Perk's little arm and hushabiyin' him, Perk calmly stole his watch off the chain and dropped it down behind the cushion of the chair. Doc went away without noticin' that he had lost his watch and it was sev'ral days 'fore he got

the thing figgered out and got the watch back ag'in."

"Them things and a few others sort of give Perk's famly the idee that p'raps he would steal if ye'd give him the chance. Later on his folks become sure of it. I shouldn't git done 'fore chore time if I tried to tell ye all the things the critter done. I can only give ye a sample or tew and it's more'n likely I'm forgettin' the best ones."

"Perk used to like to steal things where he could show some science. Most anybody can hook a di'mond ring and snoop away with it. But Perk liked to steal lo'ds of hay and a bin of pertaters out of a suller and sheep and all them things. One time his brother-in-law's famly was away to a grove meetin' and Perk went down to their place, burst into the house, dressed himself up in his brother-in-law's wedding suit, even to the tall hat, put a halter on a cow, loaded a rack with hay, hitched the cow on behind and started for the next town. He peddled the stuff, includin' some butter and eggs he got in the suller, and was jest dickerin' off the weddin' suit when the brother-in-law overhauled him.

"Perk had an uncle out West that was a reg'lar old sassage machine on legs. Ugliest man ever heard tell of. Folks thought they would send Perk out to live with him a while. Perk's father said he had licked him enough to thrash barn full of oats and he reckoned his arm would be paralyzed 'less he got red of him for a while."

"Wal, that uncle out West was lookin' for jest that kind of exercise. He run a ranch and he used to lick Perk night and mornin' 'stead of usin' the dumb bells. Said his health kept improvin' right along. But Perk done suthin' a little later on that sort of give him a relapse. Uncle had jest got his fall drove in shape to sell. There was a couple hundred head. Drover come along and offered a price. Uncle haggled and they couldn't settle. So drover went along. That night Perk snooped out, rounded the herd and set off with it after the drover. Came up with him about mornin'. Perk told drover that his uncle had changed his mind and would let the cattle go for the price that had been offered.

Drover remembered to have seen Perk at the place the day before and so he reckoned that ev'rything was right. He took the cattle and paid over the money to Perk. Perk took it and hopped aboard a train and enj'ed a tour of the country. They like to never caught him and when they did, why, most of the money was gone. But it was sort of in the famly and they couldn't seem to do much. Perk said that at the rate of a dollar a lickin' to improve his uncle's health—reg'lar doctor fee—he had only got about half his pay and he guessed the old man better shut up.

"Perk settled down at home for a while. Things kept comin' his way. People around town done the best they could to baik him but farmers can't afford to put time locks on ev'rything around the premises.

"But fin'y the thing did git pretty sassy.

The people in our place seemed perfectly willin' to divvy with Perk but consarn him, they wouldn't stand for him to take the whole thing. So it was talked over and the sheriff was called on to see if suthin' couldn't be done to discourage Perk's souvenir craze. He said he reckoned there could if the court she knew herself and he thunk she did. So he arrested Perk, and as they didn't have no lock-up in the place they put him in the school house and picked a dozen men to guard him. All the men had shot guns and powder horns and they allowed to Perk that now they had him they proposed to keep him if they had to chip in and buy a cemetery lot to do it.

"They didn't have any light in the school house. The twelve men set around on the desks and talked about one thing and another. It got to be midnight. Perk had strolled around more or less for he didn't seem to be tryin' to git away. He talked with one man after the other and was real sociable. But as he talked with the men he used his science and he emptied the powder out of every horn, one after the other, into his own pocket. Then while he whistled and sauntered round he let that powder dribble out in a train around the room, up one isle and down another.

"Then when ev'rything was ready Perk commenced to talk to 'em in a low, boogerish tone about devils and spooks and all sech like.

"'Fellers,' says he, 'I'll tell ye suthin', now that I'm goin' to jail and my career is o'er. I'm under the control of the devil himself and I can't help doin' what I've done. Hear him howlin' for me outside?'

"There was a screech owl down in the woods yankin' away, but the men were so scart that they couldn't have told a screech owl from a saw mill.

"They shivered and Perk went on. 'Course you understand,' said he, 'that I've done enough for the devil so that he is willin' to help me any time. Ye understand,' says he, 'I can call on him right this minit,' says he, 'and he will come and take me off in a cloud of fire. Would it scare you?' he says.

"Don't ye try none of them shines,' says one of the men, shiverin'. 'We don't want to have no truck with the devil no way, shape, or manner.'

"Perk, 'and he prob'y wouldn't hurt ye if he did come. I've got a good mind to call him in the old familiar way him and me have arranged. Jest for fun, ye know! The spell starts off like this:—

"'Urra goo zuhoop ga dock—devil come and bust the lock!'

"Say, you shut up on them things,' said one of the men. 'They hain't Christian. You have over any more of that lingo of tophet and we'll muffle ye.'

"'Oh, if ye are goin' to commence to threaten me,' says Perk, 'why I've got to do suthin' to perfect myself.'

"Then he commenced to holler over a lot of outlandish stuff and he set fire to the trail of powder. Whush-h-h! How it did fizzle and flash. The men all gave a yell and broke for out doors—right out through the windows, glass and all. And Perk followed along after 'em, pickin' up the guns they throwed away. He skipped over to the next town and sold the guns and went on a toot. If he hadn't done that I guess they wouldn't have caught him. But they did scoop him in and they took him to court after a time to have his trial. Say, that court house was packed clean full to the doors. There wasn't a man in the whole coun-

I SELL FARMS, Residences, Stores and Other Real Estate, No Matter Where Located.

Right now, before you forget it, tell me all about your property and how many dollars you want for it, and I will tell you just how it can be quickly sold.

No matter in what part of the United States or Canada your property is located I have a wonderfully successful plan for selling it quickly.

No matter whether your property is worth \$300 or \$300,000, I have a marvelously practical plan for finding a buyer for it.

I send my plan absolutely free.

When sale is made your own bank can handle the money so that you take no risk.

I refer to the publishers of this paper and to 350 other leading papers carrying my advertising.

National bank, mercantile agency, corporation, and individual references gladly furnished.

Read the testimonials at bottom of this advertisement.

Send description and selling price of your property at once and get my free plan for making a quick cash sale.

Remember it makes no difference where your property is.

My plan, beautiful two-color illustrated booklet telling all about how to make a quick cash sale; photograph of the largest and most complete real estate offices in the world, and other valuable information all sent free. Don't miss this chance if you want to sell your property.

Write today. Don't delay.
Do it now.

\$10 SECURES A CALIFORNIA FARM.

I offer for the first time this desirable California property and will sell it at a remarkably low price. It is one of my greatest bargains in very low priced properties and one of the few offers of the kind which I am able to make each month. It consists of a 20 acre farm situated in Los Angeles county, one of the richest in California. There are no buildings. The land is rich and productive and all cleared except 8 acres of timber. Especially good for fruit raising or dairy purposes. The price is \$175.—\$10 down and \$5 a month. Money immediately returned to all who are too late. Write today. It is a rare chance.

A Good Farm in New Jersey

Well located in Somerset county. Contains 55 acres. Excellent buildings. Good orchard, stream on land, school convenient, 1½ miles from railroad station. Price \$6,500.

160 Acres in Bradford Co., Fla.

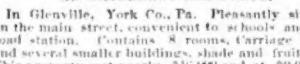
25 acres timber. Land especially suitable for cotton and strawberries. Good buildings, land well fenced, 6 miles to railroad. Price \$1,250.

77 Acres in Lenawee Co., Mich.

Good buildings, land all well fenced. Apple orchard, stream on land, 1½ miles to school; same distance to railroad station. Price \$4,700.



AN EXCELLENT RESIDENCE.



A Residence and Lot in Austin, Texas.

Contains 8 large rooms with all conveniences. Shade and fruit trees. 4 blocks from State University and 2 blocks from trolley. One mile from railroad station. Price \$4,200.

5000 Acres in Bent Co., Colo.

Good house with all conveniences. Barn, ice house and other buildings. Land well fenced. Orchard of 5 acres. Stream on land, 3 miles to railroad station. Price \$20,000.

120 Acres Walworth Co., Wis.

Good buildings. Orchard, stream on land, 25 acres of timber. Land well fenced, 5½ miles to railroad station. Price \$7,000.

In Glendale, York Co., Pa. Pleasantly situated on the main street, convenient to schools and railroad station. Contains 8 rooms, carriage house, and several smaller buildings, shade and fruit trees. This property cost nearly \$16,000 and at \$9,000 is a real bargain.

SOME SAMPLES OF RECENT TESTIMONIALS.

New Jersey Sale for a Massachusetts Client.

We have received the check in full payment for our New Jersey property. Your success in making it a cash sale in a short time is proof to us that you are the only agent who ever made a real effort to dispose of it. Mr. & Mrs. O. C. WHITTEMORE, Athol, Mass.

A California Sale for a New York Client.

By placing some California property I had for sale in your hands, I found you could sell real estate no matter where located.

CHAS. B. PARENT, Binghamton, N. Y.

A Maryland Sale for an Ohio Client.

In reply to your communication of recent date, I take pleasure in saying that you made the sale of my Maryland property as promptly as could be expected and the deal was closed up in a thoroughly satisfactory manner.

GEO. W. BILLINGS, 37 Case Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

A Florida Sale for a Connecticut Client.

I was more than pleased to receive check for the price of my house and lot in DeSoto county, Florida, and I want to commend the skill and promptness with which you have handled the transaction.

MRS. EMILY L. PERKINS, Terryville, Conn.

W. M. OSTRANDER,

1471 North American Bid'g., Philadelphia, Pa.

that had no such reparation as Perk Stuttivant. Ev'ry one kind of admired the critter. If he'd only known a little more we'd sent him to Congress to steal for his district.

"Wal, s'r, we all set there in the court room waitin' for the prisoner to be brought in. All to once the sheriff ducked into the room through the door leadin' to the jail and hollered gruff-like, 'The prisoner has escaped!' Then off he skedaddled. He hopped into his team that was tied in front of the court house and tore down the street. All the folks that had teams there chased along behind lickity-split.

"Now what do ye think had happened? We all knew that 'ere jail was too strong to be broke out of and we wondered how Perk had got away. Durin' the time the critter had been tied up in his cell he had frayed out a gray blanket and made himself a set of grey whiskers jest like the sheriff's. When the sheriff had gone to the cell that day of the trial to bring Perk to the court room, Perk had dragged him into the cell, gagged him, put on the sheriff's coat and hat and the whiskers and scooted into the court room and hollered what I've told.

That give him a chance to ride off whoopty-larrup lookin' for the prisoner, and it took all the people's attention away from the jail for a while.

"But the sheriff didn't have nothin' extra for a hoss. So Perk found that they were crawlin' up on him rather fast. If they overtook him then they were bound to see that he wasn't the sheriff.

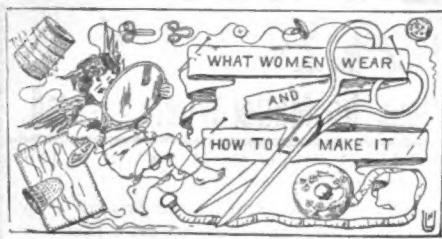
"Perk licked up for a last spurt and turned a corner in the ro'd some ways ahead of the push. He run the horse in behind some bushes, threw off his coat and vest, hopped into a field and when the crowd came whoooping along he was bent over back-to building up a piece of stone wall. As the ro'd was straight ahead and the sheriff's team was nowhere in sight, the first man along yelled, 'Hi there, farmer, seen anything of a man ridin' past here's if Old Brimstone had kicked him?'

"Jest pulled his hoss in there side of the ro'd," Perk said, still stooping in over and gruntin' at a rock. Then says he: 'He went skooootin' off across the field there chasin' some critter 'ruther. Went off to 'ards that clump of bushes down there.' Perk shoved his thumb over his shoulder and kept on to work.

"I shd think ye'd have nervous prostration ye take so much int'rest in what's goin' on round ye,' jawed one of the men who drove up. Then the caboose hitched their hosses and

slam-banged down across the field to help the sheriff catch the man who had got away. The crowd in that county expected to git so much fun out of the trial that they was jest bound to nab Perk.

"Wal, after they was out of sight in the woods



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

1 T is fast becoming a fact that we no longer look to the other side for our fashions as in former days, and the extent to which Paris styles govern American ideas is daily growing less. French creations are copied to a great degree but they are compelled to undergo modifications before they are acceptable to American taste, which shows that American women are possessed of considerable common sense and not naturally given to running to extremes. In short, French ideas are only followed so far as is consistent with the dictates of good taste.

Some have startled us all by declaring the dip front to be on the wane, but it will doubtless retain its popularity for some time to come, at least through the coming season. Most of the new gown models display this style. There

is a modification noticeable however, and some round effects will be seen, but the beloved dip front will be with us for some time to come.

Beaded belts are certainly growing in favor. There are the elastic and the non-elastic belts in all sizes and shapes. Steel is the more popular, but in the high grade belts some remarkably handsome effects are seen in black and gold. Satin, also silk ribbons in narrow widths and in bright colors, ornamented with rows of stitching in the same color are being used as appliques.

One of the results of the vogue for linen is the production of a new shade termed Paris ecru, somewhat darker than the shade commonly known by that name. In fact, ivory and Paris ecru are to be prominent among the colors in linen for the coming season.

Black silk embroidery on black cloth tailored gowns is the very latest expression of elegance

on models from some of the most prominent houses in Paris. Many beautiful patterns are shown in flower work in a variety of colors, the material being all silk and the blossoms having hand-crocheted buttons for centers. Another striking novelty in which flowers figure prominently, has the Edelweiss blossoms hand-painted on a white ground with a border in Paris ecru. One of the newest things in spangles is the spangled pendant trimming.

Many of the new skirts made of summer stuffs show a slight indication of fullness across the front and sides while the back is laid in deep pleats, or Shirred. Habit backs obtain largely in cloth gowns, but are seldom seen absolutely plain, being relieved by buttons, or straps, or rows of flat trimming, anything to break up the severe surface.

An odd trimming used on a gown of pale gray broadcloth was as follows. Around the foot of the skirt, and graduating up the front, were large circles cut out of the cloth under which was laid striped silk of black and white, the white predominating. The edges of the circles were cut out irregularly, showing sharply over the silk. The same design decorated bodice and sleeves.

With the advent of summer we are to see the lace mitt and hair net girl in evidence; very new and startling, but altogether swagger. She is the beginning of Le Pompadour in whose wake, so far as dress goes we are so soon to follow. Daintily flowered gauzes, muslins, soft silks and chiffons, wreathed and sprigged all over, are to be made up into fluttering skirts with flounces and frills galore. Some with the front breadth only are flounced in petticoat effect, over which opens the skirt proper, edged with ribbon flatly quilled, or by a narrow frill or ruche.

Already modistes are showing us the long, tight bodice with its long, sloping shoulders, and open front caught together by flat bows of ribbon, such as Madam Du Barry wore so long ago. Elbow sleeves with frill upon frill at the elbow, met by long lace mitts, the hair à la chignon, bunched under a jeweled or ruche.

Already modistes are showing us the long, tight bodice with its long, sloping shoulders, and open front caught together by flat bows of ribbon, such as Madam Du Barry wore so long ago. Elbow sleeves with frill upon frill at the elbow, met by long lace mitts, the hair à la chignon, bunched under a jeweled or ruche.

It is not a face powder, cream, cosmetic or bleach, contains no oil, grease, paste, chemicals, or poisons of any kind and is absolutely pure.

Write to Mme. Ribault's, 3853 Elsa Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio, and she will mail free, prepaid, in a plain sealed wrapper a free package of her wonderful beautifiers and you will always bless the day you wrote. Do not fail to write to-day.

We may even wear panniers before the summer wanes; we certainly will see draperies, and

so we move on, in constant evolution.

Summer shirt waists are to be buttoned in the back, and are extremely dainty creations, set full as they are with beautiful laces, and hand needle work.

A novel little Eton is set forth here which is



certain to delight the eye of the artistic woman. It is made of black satin and consists of side pleats set on a flat yoke, well fitted, over which falls a sailor collar of white batiste beautifully embroidered on the edges. The sleeves are also side plaited and bell shape, finished off by double frills of lace to fall over the hand.

A Giant Tree.

THE Blue Gum tree of Tasmania often reaches the height of three hundred feet and measures forty feet in diameter. The leaves are a very unusual shape and size and are a bluish green in color. In many places where it is found it is known, we are told, as the Fever Tree, as its leaves emit an odor which serves as a disinfectant, and its roots absorb all water from the surrounding ground, thus making marshes less dangerous as fever traps.

Soap is such a common article of use with us that we are apt to be surprised when we learn that there are many countries where it is wholly unknown.

Made Her Beautiful

Every Lady in the Land Can Now Have a Beautiful Skin.

A TRIAL BOX FREE.

It has remained for a Cincinnati woman to discover the secret of a perfect skin. She has at last found the key to feminine beauty. All the sighs and heartaches over a poor appearance may now



be banished, for it is within the means of every lady, young or middle aged, to have the clearest and most refined complexion so dear to a woman's heart.

Fannie B. Ralston, Ky., says: "When I began using Mme. Ribault's complexion beautifiers I did not think it possible to clear my skin, my face was in a horrible condition literally covered with red spots, pimples, blackheads, moth patches and freckles. I suffered a thousand deaths, and when I sent for a trial of Mme. Ribault's beautifiers I improved so wonderfully that my friends did not recognize me, so quickly had the change taken place. My skin is now perfectly lovely, and there is not a blemish or wrinkle anywhere."

It is not a face powder, cream, cosmetic or bleach, contains no oil, grease, paste, chemicals, or poisons of any kind and is absolutely pure.

Write to Mme. Ribault's, 3853 Elsa Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio, and she will mail free, prepaid, in a plain sealed wrapper a free package of her wonderful beautifiers and you will always bless the day you wrote. Do not fail to write to-day.

We may even wear panniers before the summer wanes; we certainly will see draperies, and



Send Only 25c.
A \$5.00
Tucked
All
Silk
Chiffon
Pattern
Hat
\$1.95

Send 25c and we will ship you, express paid, this elegant tucked all silk Chiffon Hat, just like above cut. Beautifully made of fine imported material by the best milliners money can hire. This rich hat is made by hand of all silk tucked chiffon over a silk wire frame. Trimmed with a large pure silk taffeta chon and six pure silk and velvet roses, an elegant cut jet or steel buckle to the front completes this masterpiece of the milliner's art. Comes in Black, White, Navy, Red, Brown, Tan, Grey, Violet and Straw color.

If you find the hat equal to or better than you can buy of your home milliner at from \$5.00 to \$8.00 pay the express agent \$1.95 and wear the very latest thing in correct millinery. In ordering state whether you want black or what color you desire. Send 25c stamp for the finest millinery not catalogued.

We want an agent in every town. Milliners write for our wholesale catalogue.

TODD-SMITH & CO., 23-25-27 Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

AGENTS CREDIT. Perfumes, Flavors, etc. Big Profits. Expr. Pd. Terms free. Herbane Agency Co., Box 254, Station L, New York.

LUCKY SEALS AND TALISMANS Persons desiring Luck in life or to capture friends and wear one or more of their seals. Write for size and send Seal Book Co., Sta. X, PALMYRA, PENNA.

LADIES WHO SPEND A FEW SPARE HOURS EARNING MONEY Address Dr. Mary Proctor's Institute, 48 Clark St., New York.

LADY AGENTS WANTED To sell CORSETS, TAILOR-MADE SKIRTS AND PETTICOATS. Write for Catalogue and terms to CONSELINE MFG. CO., Dept. T, St. Louis, Mo.

30 LOVELY CARDS with your name printed on all, 20 Songs with Music, 40 Photos, 50 Magic Secrets, 50 Instructive Experiments, 50 Pictures with Solutions, 101 Conundrums, 60 Games, 400 Jokes, 100 Money-making Secrets, 100 Valuable Receipts, 256 Album and Love Verses, 18 Complete Stories, 20 Styles Cards, Bits Prints, etc., all 10 cts. TUTTLE BROS. CO., BOX 5, TOTOKET, CONN.

GOLD WATCH & CHAIN FREE A splendid SOLID GOLD LAID WATCH with American movement fully warranted to keep good time for 5 years and with proper care will last 20 years, equal in appearance to one costing \$100.00. We will forward to you 20 pieces of jewelry at 10c. each. Send us your address and we will forward jewelry postage paid, when sold send us the \$2.00 and we will postively send watch and chain by return mail.

THE BEST CO., Dept. 122 Chicago.

TWO RINGS FREE Send name and address, no money, and we will mail you 12 boxes of Comfort Cough Tablets. Will cure a cough in 1 day. Sell them for 10c. a box. Send us the \$1.20 and we will mail you these two solid gold laid rings. Will wear all day. No money required till tables are sold. We take back all notes sold. COMFORT MEDICINE CO., Providence, R.I.

FAT How to reduce it M. Hugo Horn, 344 E. 65th St., New York City, writes: "I reduced my weight 40 lbs in three years ago, and I have no gains or losses. Persons who are really harmless as was. Any one can make it at home a little expense. No starting. No sickness. We will mail a box of fat and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 4 cents for postage, etc. Hall Chemical Co., Dept. R, St. Louis, Mo.

\$1,000 EACH FOR CERTAIN OLD COINS I pay from \$1 to \$100 for certain coins dated 1838-6-21-52-53-50-58-6-1-61-64-65-66-73-75-76-77-78-79, to 90-91-94 and for certain older rare dates I pay \$10 to \$100. Some coins with Mint Marks bring 50c per cent, over face value. 65 rare foreign coins and medals sold recently for \$35.25, and some postage stamps bring \$4.00 per stamp. If you are interested in large legitimate profits send two stamps for an illustrated circular on coins and stamps.

W. VON BERGEN, Licensed Coin Dealer, Scollay Square C, BOSTON, MASS.

\$5.00 SHAVING SET FREE for selling only six of our Exclusive Porous Plaster. We want to prove there is a sure prevention and cure for Lame Back, La Grippe, Gout, Rheumatis, Colds, Rheumatism, etc., etc., and will send you six of our Sc. Plasters which you are to sell and return the money and we will sell you all charges paid.

Shaving Set packed in a case eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single blade, \$3.00; 1 Genuine, Horsehair, Double, Reversible, Canvas-back, Nickel-hung, Ebонized handle Razor, \$2.00; Face and Head Steaming Attach, \$6.00 Quality best. Guaranteed. \$2 Book FREE with all "Quakers." Write for our New Catalogue. Special 60-Day Offer. Don't miss it. Your last chance. New plan, new prices to agents, salesmen, managers. Hustlers getting rich. Wonderful sellers. Plenty territory. World Mfg. Co., 97 World Bldg., Cincinnati, O.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

PRICES REDUCED FOR 60 DAYS.

\$4.00 VAPOUR BATH CABINET, \$2.25 each
\$5.00 QUAKER " " 3.50 each
\$10.00 " " 6.10 each
\$1.00 Face and Head Steaming Attach, \$6.00 Quality best. Guaranteed. \$2 Book FREE with all "Quakers." Write for our New Catalogue. Special 60-Day Offer. Don't miss it. Your last chance. New plan, new prices to agents, salesmen, managers. Hustlers getting rich. Wonderful sellers. Plenty territory. C. S. DAIVISON & CO., 291 Broadway, New York, Dept. 26.

4 for 10 cents

We will send to any one, 4 handsome Duchess Lace Handkerchiefs, all different. Also send 100 page catalogue of Fancy Work Novelties and Handkerchiefs. All for 10 cents.

KING MFG. CO., No. 227 King Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.

4 for 10 cents

We will send to any one, 4 handsome Duchess Lace Handkerchiefs, all different. Also send 100 page catalogue of Fancy Work Novelties and Handkerchiefs. All for 10 cents.

C. S. DAIVISON & CO., 291 Broadway, New York, Dept. 26.

ANY LADY Can Easily Make \$18 TO \$25

weekly by representing us in her locality and as the position is pleasant and profitable, we will gladly send particular details to all. Even your spare time is valuable. This is no deception, and if you really want to make money address WOMAN'S MUTUAL BENEFIT CO., Box 17, JOLIET, ILL.

THIS HANDSOME COUCH FREE.

No Money Required. We Pay the Freight. Here is our new plan. To every lady who sends us 200 of our Columbia Baking Powder, etc. (on our Plan No. 59), giving free to each purchaser, a beautiful Glass Pitcher, a sofa, 6 feet long and 2 feet wide, fitted with ten tempered steel springs on a strong wood base. Covered with beautiful Damask, Fringed on bottom. Remember, every one of your friends receives a handsome Water Set free with every purchase. No trouble at all to take orders this way. No money required in advance. Simply send your name and address and we will send you our order blank, plans, etc. We will send you this Couch, Baking Powder, etc., and allow you time to deliver goods & collect the money before paying us one cent. You run no risk, KING MFG. CO., No. 227 King Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.

as we pay the freight, & will trust you. Write to-day.

CONFORT is already the most perfect low price literary monthly ever gotten out, and we are constantly adding to its art, scientific and current literature features. We want many new trial subscribers and print offers below that will make it an object for you to assist us to increase our subscription list so that you can obtain a large lot of Remnants.

A Big Lot of Real Silk and Plush Also Stamped Satin REMNANTS FOR CRAZY PATCHWORK.

ART in needle work is on the advance. We know the ladies delight in odd pieces of silk and satin—"CRAZY QUILT" work is again very popular. We are sure we have a bargain that all ladies will now delight in. Bright, handsome, odd-shaped, and pretty colored goods accumulate very fast factories; the styles were never so bright and pretty as they were past season and they are now burdened with remnants of many RICH GOODS. We have thousands of pieces of silk and satin on hand which we are going to give you a big trade allowance to put into sofa-pillows, quilts, etc., and we can help you out now. We are sending you a sample of the remnants lot EIGHT OFF. Our packages contain from 99 to 168 pieces of the best quality assured goods, and we want to get a lot introduced into every home; then you can order as you like for your friends, and MAKE MONEY doing our work and helping yourself. Remember these pieces are carefully trimmed, and especially adapted to all sorts of fancy, art, and needle work. Many ladies sell tidiess, fancy pillows, etc., at a good price made from these goods. Order one sample now for only 25c. It would cost many dollars bought at a store.

Grand Offer! If you order our great assured lot AT ONCE, we will give you several rich, bright and beautiful stamped satin pieces; each piece contains nine square inches and is stamped by hand with a graceful design for embroidery.

Five Skeins Embroidery Silks Free. In order to get your stamped satin and other pieces we also send absolute FREE, five skeins of embroidery silk in all different bright colors. This will be worth nearly twice the price we ask for the remnants; but we know if you ORDER ONE lot we will sell many in your locality, so make this liberal offer besides giving you a large and elegant piece of silk.

Plush containing 36 square inches.

BEST WAY. We send ONE of the above complete assortments lots FREE to all who send 25 cents for 3 months' subscription to "CONFORT" the best Home Monthly now published.

to your friends and neighbors we will send free the seams of "Crazy Patchwork" and the book "How to Join Edges, etc."

The book illustrates over one hundred and fifty of these besides directions for taking ART

EMBROIDERY STITCHES, comprising the Chenille Embroidery, Ribbon Work, Plush or Tufted Stitch, etc.

It also tells how to do the Outline and Kensington Stitch, Arrasene and

Kensington Painting.

Remember one big lot (over 100 pieces) Silk Remnants, the assorted stamped satin piece 5 Skeins Embroidery silk, 36 square inches; plush, a great book on embroidery together with 3 months' subscription to "CONFORT," all for 1.00.

CONFORT, Silk Dept. 14, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



SENATOR HOAR OF MASSACHUSETTS.

ONE of the ablest members of the United States Senate is Hon. George Frisbie Hoar, of Massachusetts. Senator Hoar has been a member of Congress since 1869, serving four terms in the House of Representatives before his election to the higher branch, which occurred in 1877, so that for thirty-three years he has served his commonwealth in the national legislature. He was born in Concord, Mass., in 1826, and graduated from Harvard college before he was twenty years of age. The degree of LL. D. has been conferred upon him by four colleges, William and Mary, Amherst, Yale and Harvard. He is not so old by three years as Senator Pettus of Alabama, but he has seen more of congressional life. In 1876 he served as a member of the electoral commission and for more than thirty years he has been a prominent figure in national affairs.

Just now, he is opposed to the retention of the Philippines and is insistent that the government shall relinquish its control over these islands and assist the people thereof in establishing a republic of their own. Senator Hoar is recognized as one of the foremost anti-imperialists of the country although he is a firm supporter of the Republican party.

The Legislature of New Jersey has elected John Fairfield Dryden United States Senator to succeed the late Senator Sewall. Senator Dryden is of old New England stock. He was born in Farmington, Maine, Aug. 7, 1839, and was educated for the legal profession. He was named for John Fairfield, who was Governor of the State of Maine at the time of his birth. For nearly thirty years he has been prominent in New Jersey business circles and is the president of a leading insurance company.



SENATOR DRYDEN OF NEW JERSEY.

The Cuban reciprocity question is pending in Congress. The bone of contention is the question of reducing the duty on Cuban Sugar. It is said that the President and the members of the cabinet are in favor of the proposition to reduce the duty about twenty-five per cent.

The speech of David Josiah Brewer, one of the justices of the United States Supreme Court, which was delivered in Philadelphia a short time ago, has attracted national attention. In this speech Justice Brewer advances the pessimistic idea that this country is in a bad way. He says that it is a mistake to suppose that this republic has already won the battle of life. The battle is still on and it must be waged with all the courage and persistence of the Pilgrim Fathers, or else it may be lost. Justice Brewer has been a member of the Supreme Court since 1889, and is a nephew of the late Justice Stephen J. Field, who for many years was a member of the same high tribunal.

A bill reducing the war revenue taxes \$77,000,000 has been completed by Chairman Payne of the Ways and Means Committee and has passed the House without a dissenting vote.

Signor des Planches is the successor of Baron Fava as ambassador from Italy to this country. He has only recently arrived in Washington, after having served his country for more than a quarter of a century in the diplomatic service. He comes from an old and distinguished family of Savoy, which, SIGNOR DES PLANCHES, for more than five centuries, has occupied a leading and influential place in the diplomatic history of Italy.



The amount of money in circulation in the United States on February 1, not including \$290,269,552 held in the treasury as assets of the government, was \$2,259,961,609, being an increase of \$68,171,486 since one year ago. The circulation per capita, based on an estimated population of 78,560,000, was \$28.77, as against \$28.33 a year ago, and the highest yet reached in the history of the country.

Arthur Pue Gorman has again been elected to the United States Senate from the State of Maryland. Fifty years ago he was appointed a page in the body in which he has already served with conspicuous ability for eighteen years and in which he will take his seat on March 4, 1903. It is not often that a member of the United States Senate returns to that body after an absence of several years caused by the defeat of the party to which he belongs, but in the case of Mr. Gorman such an experience has come to him. Arthur Pue Gorman was born in Maryland in 1839, and during his sixty-three years of life has cut a greater figure in the politics of the nation than that of the average public man. At the age of thirteen years he was made a page by the appointment of the great Stephen A. Douglass, and when he retired from the list of Senate employees in 1866, he held the office of postmaster. He then went back to Maryland

SENATOR GORMAN OF MARYLAND.

Senate returns to that body after an absence of several years caused by the defeat of the party to which he belongs, but in the case of Mr. Gorman such an experience has come to him. Arthur Pue Gorman was born in Maryland in 1839, and during his sixty-three years of life has cut a greater figure in the politics of the nation than that of the average public man. At the age of thirteen years he was made a page by the appointment of the great Stephen A. Douglass, and when he retired from the list of Senate employees in 1866, he held the office of postmaster. He then went back to Maryland

and has been an active politician ever since. His early experiences in the Senate chamber bred in him an ambition and a determination to become a Senator himself some day, and his youthful dream was realized when he succeeded William Pinckney Whyte and took his seat March 4, 1881, serving until 1899. Mr. Gorman has always been a Democrat and was manager of the Democratic National Campaign in 1884, which resulted in the election of Grover Cleveland to the presidency of the United States. His return to the Senate after four years' retirement may be regarded as one of the unusual peculiarities of politics.

Dr. Presley Marion Rixey, whom President Roosevelt has made surgeon general of the navy, has been a capable and popular officer of that service since 1874. He is a native Virginian, entered the navy when twenty-four years old and has served in various positions in the medical department DR. RIXEY, U. S. NAVY. of the service. He was a close and warm friend of President McKinley and attended him after he had been shot by the assassin. President McKinley had promised to nominate him for the surveyor generalship, a promise President Roosevelt has ratified.

Senator Hoar, from the Committee on Judiciary, has favorably reported a bill for the protection of the President of the United States, the Vice-President and others. It provides that any person who shall, within the limits of the United States or any place subject to its jurisdiction, wilfully kill or cause the death of the President or Vice-President or any officer in line of succession, or who shall wilfully cause the death of the sovereign or chief magistrate of any foreign country, shall be punished with death. An attempt to commit either of the offences mentioned is also punishable by death. The bill also provides twenty years' imprisonment for the person found guilty of advising the killing of the persons named, and five years' imprisonment is provided for persons convicted of uttering, spoken or published, which threaten to kill or advise or instigate any person to kill the person named.

An unusual proceeding marked a recent President's reception of the foreign diplomats. The line of notable callers was led by a woman. Lady Pauncefote it was who had the distinction of filling this unique function. Lord Pauncefote, the British ambassador and dean of the corps, being unavoidably absent, his place was filled by his stately wife, who led the line and was the first to extend her respects to the President.

Senator William B. Allison of Iowa, whose re-election to a sixth term in the United States Senate occurred a short time ago, in the Nestor, in point of service, of the higher branch of Congress. In the history of this country he is the third man to receive the honor of a sixth consecutive election to the Senate. Senator Anthony of Rhode Island died before he began service in his sixth term, and Senator Morrill of Vermont died a few months after his sixth term began.

Forty years ago Mr. Allison was elected a member of the lower house of Congress, where he served four terms. In 1873 he became a member of the Senate and will have completed thirty years in that body on March 3, 1903. Judging from his magnificent physique and perfect health, he will probably serve out his sixth term and surpass the record of all his predecessors in the Senate. Mr. Allison is one of the most influential men in either branch of Congress. For many years he has been the chairman of the committee on appropriations, a position regarded as the most important in either body. His name has often been mentioned in connection with the presidency, but he has steadfastly refused to become a candidate for that high office, believing that he could render more service to his country in the position he now occupies than if he were elected to the exalted station of President of the United States. He is 73 years of age.

Among the notable men whom Andrew Carnegie has named as trustees of the national university, which the distinguished philanthropist is to endow with ten millions of dollars, none occupies a more commanding place in the industrial progress of the country than Carroll D. Wright, United STATES COMMISSIONER OF LABOR. He was born in New Hampshire in 1840, the son of a clergyman. For nearly thirty years he has been engaged in statistical work, first as commissioner of the Massachusetts Bureau of Labor and since 1885 as United States Commissioner. He holds high rank among the educators of the country.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections has favorably reported the amendment to the constitution changing the day for the inauguration of the President from March 4 to the last Thursday in April. The resolution provides that the change shall take effect in 1905, and extends the term of President Roosevelt from March 4 to that date. It is also provided that hereafter the terms of Senators



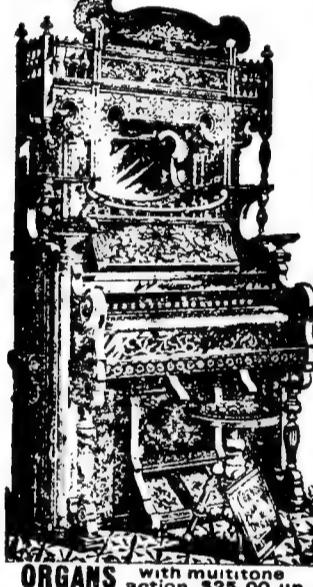
A CORNISH PIANO OR ORGAN

Free For a Year. PIANOS With Instrumental Attachments \$155 up.

We will ship any Cornish American Piano or Organ upon the distinct understanding that if not found entirely satisfactory after 12 months' use we will take it back,

thus giving you one year's free trial in your own home. You take no risk when you buy on the celebrated CORNISH PLAN. Cornish Pianos and Organs occupy a field by themselves. In quality and tone, in mechanical superiority and superb finish they stand unrivaled.

You pay no middleman's commission.—No dealer's profits when you buy a Cornish Piano or Organ.—You buy direct from factory to home and owing to the enormous number of instruments we make, the manufacturer's profit we ask is very, very small. In proof of our absolute integrity we give to every purchaser a guarantee which is practically a bond on the whole of our million dollar plant. This guarantee not only binds us to carry out to the letter every promise made in this advertisement but warrants each instrument for 25 years.



MINIATURE PIANOS and ORGANS, absolutely correct in coloring, sent FREE to all intending purchasers to aid them in making a selection best suited to the color scheme of their home; also our New Souvenir Catalogue, which gives all details of the latest styles in PIANOS and ORGANS, handsomely illustrated in colors.

Pianos, \$155 up. Organs, \$25 up.
WRITE TO-DAY for the Miniatures and Catalogue.

No matter how much or how little you wish to pay for an instrument, we can please you and save you money.

Anyone willing to do a little work for us may earn their Piano or Organ FREE. The FIRST SALE in a new community carries with it a handsome cash bonus.

CORNISH CO., WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY.

FOR 50 YEARS PIANO AND ORGAN MAKERS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.



SEND NO MONEY

For our magnificently engraved double hunting case watch of Gold alloy with extra 14 Karat gold plate, equal in appearance to any 35 dollar watch. Movement the best make, fully jeweled, duplex escapement, quick train, pat. pinion, accurately regulated and adjusted with 20 YEAR GUARANTEE.

Railroad men all over the country buy this watch on account of its durability and the fine quality of its work. Our factory price is \$2.00 per day; for the next 60 days we will send you one sample for free inspection. If fully satisfied pay \$8.50 and express charges, otherwise not one cent. State nearest express office, and if Ladies or Gent. watch, **FREE** a free Excelsior Watch Co. 66 Central Bank Bldg., Chicago. Please mention Comfort when you write.

\$15.05 STEEL MILL
For \$15.05 we sell the HIGHEST GRADE, STRONGEST LIGHTEST RUNNING AND BEST PUMPING STEEL WINDMILL.
\$14.30 buys the highest grade and strongest mill covered by a BINDING GUARANTEE. For greatest windmill offer ever made, cut this ad. out and mail to SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.



PARKER'S HAIR BALSM
Cleanses and beautifies the hair.
Promotes a luxuriant growth.
Never fails to restore Gray Hair to a Youthful Color.
Cures lice & hair falling.
50c. and \$1.00 at Drugstores.

Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.



OUR MAGNANIMOUS OFFER
WE WILL POSITIVELY GIVE THIS ELEGANT \$65.00 Style Sewing Machine

FREE to any person who will accept our offer and sell only 10 packages of our Laxo-Tonic Pills. The machine is sold under a full guarantee. IT IS DROP HEAD, HIGH BACK, AUTOMATIC TAKE UP, AUTOMATIC BOBBIN WINDER, DOUBLE NEEDLE, SELF-THREADING SHUTTLE, NOISELESS SHUTTLE CARRIER, HEAD IS HANDSOME AND PLEASING IN APPEARANCE. All parts highly finished and carefully woodwork. Is quartered oak, highly polished and fitted dust proof. In short, it is just the same style as machines selling for \$65.00 with attachments. To get this offer, send us the 10 boxes of our Laxo-Tonic Pills in every town and hamlet, we will give our special liberal offer of the high grade sewing machine to anyone who will sell only 10 boxes of our Laxo-Tonic Pills. \$25.00 for the box and we will give us our money. DO NOT SEND A CENT OF YOUR MONEY. Simply send your name and address, we will at once send our special offer of THE SEWING MACHINE described above, ABSOLUTELY FREE, together with A HAND-SOME and accurate SWISS CLOCK. Our plan is to get people to help us popularize our Laxo-Tonic Pills by giving liberal premiums instead of to offer a high grade sewing machine to anyone who will sell only 10 boxes of our Laxo-Tonic Pills. When sold, we will give us our money. Headache, Liver Troubles, Impaired Food, etc. We are a responsible house and warrant our tablets, sewing machines and clocks to be just as represented. Send your name at once, also P. O. address and nearest express office. We pay all express and packing charges. You have no other expense.

WEST INDIA IMPORTING CO., Dept. M., 442 Washington St., New York.

COMFORT

THE KEY TO

A Million and a Quarter Homes.

It has the largest sworn circulation of any publication of any kind, anywhere.

The Only Monthly in the World
Printed in five to eight bright colors on a perfecting press, which takes the paper from rolls, prints and binds it complete.

It is regularly read by more people than any other paper or magazine in America. Its matter is original, copyrighted and cannot be found elsewhere.

Its watchword is "Onward and Upward." It presents something new, novel and entertaining for each and every member of each and every household.

IT IS THE PEOPLE'S PAPER.

TERMS: 25c. PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are entered on our books as soon as received, and are always dated from the current issue, unless otherwise ordered.

POSTAGE to all parts of the United States and Canada is prepaid by us.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: When ordering change in address, be sure to give former as well as new address. We cannot find your name on our books unless you do. Due notice given upon expiration of subscription.

COMFORT was started and its subscription price fixed on the basis of an 8 page paper; it has been voluntarily enlarged to 12, 16 and 24 pages. When more than 12 pages are now given the subscriber can consider it a gift from the publisher.

Entered at the Post Office at Augusta, Maine,
as second-class mail matter

Published Monthly at Augusta, Maine.

Boston Office, Hancock Building.
New York Office, Temple Court, Chicago Office, Marquette Building.

Guaranteed Circulation:
ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND COPIES,
Each and Every Issue.

Or Exceeding 15 Millions A Year.

March and Lent are two combinations that serve to drive all the fashionable sinners to fill the piazzas of Southern hotels or of nearer by resorts. March is the great vacation month for those whose health, conscience and purse will permit them to migrate.

A well-known magazine has recently been printing a series of articles on the remodelling of farmhouses. A long step toward beauty and homeliness would be made by opening and using the old fireplaces that are bricked up in so many old-time farmhouses. An open fire is today one of the greatest of modern luxuries.

The changes and chances that one year holds has never been more strongly illustrated than by the political results of the year from March 1901 to March 1902. Then it was generally believed that "Teddy's" political enemies heaved a sigh of content as they deposited him upon the quiet shelf of the vice presidency. Now by a great tragedy, Theodore Roosevelt stands at the head of this great nation.

Since 1893, there has been an annual meeting of the historians of the world in international conference. This year the meeting is to be held in the Eternal City. Rome made the history of the world for thousands of years and it is fitting that a conference that has the possibility of shaping events by the manner in which it writes history should meet in this city backwards to which all the roads of history run.

One of the latest inventions for massage is a rubber hand. We have long been in the colloquial habit of considering the term "rubber neck" as a reproach. The rubber hand, however, is expected to be in reality a glad hand for its use is to prevent baldness. The gentle friction of the scalp that it produces is claimed to be more directly beneficial in effect than massage by the fingers. This would seem to kill the theory of the transmission of electric or magnetic force, for rubber is a non-conductor. However, rubber hands, minus a thumb, are in the market and the baldheaded row will soon be ancient history in a different sense from what it is now.

Scarcely a day now passes that does not reveal some new tunnel scheme for New York. Just as public opinion is demanding the abolition of the tunnel through which the only railroad having a terminal in the city enters, other railroads are announcing the proposed construction of tunnels under both the rivers that hem the city on either side. A trolley company also proposes to tunnel the East River. The city and the river will soon be literally the second story for the new underground railway, and the many proposed tunnels under the rivers will send a large proportion of the travel underground. New Yorkers will be literally where they have so long figuratively claimed they were—"out of sight."

The peril of those who go down in ships will soon be only a matter of past history. The modern ocean steamship seemed almost to obliterate the dangers of the deep but occasionally an accident like that of the ill-fated Bourgoigne startles the world. The fact that ships have telegraphed by the Marconi system where a distance of one hundred twenty-five miles lay between them furnishes an additional security to ocean travel. In addition to this a mechanical invention has just been perfected by means of which the officer on the bridge can

close the doors of all the waterproof compartments by one motion. They have each been closed separately and it was the failure to do this on the part of the French sailors that led to the awful disaster. In case of collision or striking a rock, the ship can almost instantly be made watertight so that sinking is practically impossible. No recent life saving devices have promised so much as this latest one does.

William H. Maxwell, the head of the public school system for the greatest city of our nation, recently named some books with which every teacher should in his judgment be familiar. The list was remarkable for its brevity. It included the Bible, at least one play of Shakespeare, a translation of the Iliad and of the Odyssey, the Vicar of Wakefield and Idylls of the King. The very conciseness and simplicity of demand of this recommendation finds favor in an age of books without number and of reading lists that appeal by length. It is the quality rather than the quantity of this list that makes for culture. If one should beware the man of one book, how much greater should be the respect forced from a mental adversary by the alert intellectual acumen of the man who had mastered and made his own the intellectual potentiality of these few volumes.

Two professors in the University of Chicago have recently made some of the most remarkable discoveries concerning the body. They have demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt, or the possibility of dispute, that nerve force is entirely an electric process. The nerve is a gelatinous substance, the atoms of which contain minute charges of electricity. These charges may be either positive or negative. They expect to demonstrate the true nature of death. In experiments upon sea urchins' eggs they have postponed death indefinitely by the use of potassium cyanide solutions. Under ordinary conditions this is a deadly poison, almost instantaneous in its results. They argue that the cell structure in the human body and in the sea urchin's egg is very similar. So many fountains of perpetual youth have been discovered that the public is slow to accept scientific conclusions concerning experiments in this line of prolonging life. The man who would merely discover a means of prolonging life would hardly be hailed as a general benefactor. If he could prolong youth as he prolonged life he might be hailed as a benefactor in reality.

International coqueting is always of interest to the lookers-on at the great game of nations. When a family "rises in the world" it speedily recognizes the fact that its neighbors have recognized the fact. The sensations of the newly rich must be a mixture of amusement, self admiration and a discreet endeavor to act as though they had always been used to consideration. We have made a commercial empire by Yankee invention and energy and the nations of the world seem to have awakened suddenly to the realization of the fact that the United States has "arrived" as the French say. Germany is throwing smiles and bouquets at the United States. She sends her favorite prince to us and the daughter of our president christens the Imperial yacht that American ship builders are constructing. This is the smile! The bouquet consists in the tacit acknowledgment on the part of Germany of the Monroe Doctrine. Germany intends to collect some debts which Venezuela owes to Germans and if it be necessary force may be employed. Germany explains with great courtesy to the United States that she has no intention of possessing herself of any of the territory of Venezuela. Thus the Monroe Doctrine is acknowledged by another of the great nations.

The work-a-day world, the world that gets up at six in the morning, dines from a tin pail and is ready to go to bed at eight, is looking for a millionaire who has a real human streak in him—a millionaire who believes the sentence, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." There are books enough in the world, sermons enough in the world, medicine enough in the world—but not enough innocent amusement. In the cities, one may find almost everything free but fun. It is useless to declare that the love of amusement is a sign of moral decay in nation and to cite the old historic precedent that the free gladiatorial shows of ancient Rome presaged the downfall of the empire. That was brutal pleasure. The throngs who listen to the free music in the parks of our cities show how strong is the craving for a

SUBSCRIBE NOW

Or Renew Your Subscription Before Advance in Price.

Owing to extensive additional improvements in "COMFORT" much beyond those first contemplated we may be obliged soon to announce an advance in the subscription price from 25c. to 50c. a year, of which we give timely notice to our valued old subscribers. To all subscribers old or new we make the following offer at this time. Fill out, sign and send in the special coupon subscription blank below with ten cents to pay for six months' trial subscription; and we will put you on our list as paid six

Publishers COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.
For enclosed 10c. please enter my subscription for COMFORT for six months paid in advance, and after that continue my subscription at 25c. a year unless otherwise ordered.

Name _____ County _____

Town _____ State _____

TRICK OF "HARE-LIP" TODD.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HOLMAN F. DAY.

Copyright, 1902, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.

One of the partners was "Figger-four" Jake.

The other was "Hare-lip" Todd.

They peddled their halibut, haddock and hake, Mackerel, clams and cod.

"Figger-four" Jake had an angled knee,

And he walked with a bob and hop;

And "Hare-lip" Todd conversed, did he,

With a Scandinavian chop.

But each to the other was completement:

Jake had a fog-horn shout,

He could clamor their wares as on they went

And Todd could hand them out.

But some of the people would sniff and smell

And spitefully then would say,

The cart could speak for itself quite well

For at least a mile away.

Yet "Figger-four" Jake and "Hare-lip" Todd,

Abashed by no bout or jeer,

Still peddled their haddock and hake and cod

To the townsfolk year by year.

Till at last, though no one exactly knew

How the bickering came about,

Their trade relations were knocked askew

And Jake and Todd fell out.

So each of them furnished a rival cart,

With fish of every kind,

And as soon as "Figger-four" made his start

Old Todd trailed close behind.

Then Jake would bellow with lusty yell,

Riding from door to door.

But Todd would wait for a breathing spell

In the howl of "Figger-four."

'Twas about like this: "Now here ye go!

For nice fresh hake and cod.

Mackerel, halibut, haddock—yo ho!

Tongues and sounds and scrod."

And right behind with his elbows peaked,

Huddupping on, Todd came;

And through the gap of his hare-lip squeaked,

"H' I h'ah h'ust 'he h'am'e!"

In the business world, when a man strikes out

In an active, original way,

And by dint of making his dollars shout

Forces his scheme to pay,

There's always the fellow, a drone or afraid,

And grudging his breath or his grit,

Who is ready to pilfer the hustler's trade

When the other has cornered it.

He steals the fruits of the enterprise

When the hustler stops for wind,

For the thoughtless mob not always buys

Of the man who has stoutly dinned.

The trick is hidden with nicer art

In the hurrying city trade,

But you'll notice the scheme of the peddler cart

Whenever success is made.

For often some up-to-date "Figger-four,"

Shouting as best he can,

Discovers a trailer—a man or store—

Stealing his trade or plan.

Whenever a man has won his way

By doing the best he could,

There's always a chap at his heels to say,

Here's something just as good!"

And there's ever a fellow to ape success

Or to echo a well-earned fame,

Some trickster who squeaks through speech or

press

His greedy "H'ust 'he h'am'e!"

pleasure that shall lift the people for a minute out of the world of work and worry into a sunnier atmosphere. Let some millionaire endow a theatre that shall present good, wholesome plays, alternating with popular concerts. Let the purpose be not to instruct but to amuse in an innocent and healthy manner. The question of administration would be a difficult one but it could be done. As it is now, the amusements open to the poorer class are often demoralizing and degrading. One poor theatre can nullify the work of a dozen libraries. There is a mighty power that is given into the hands of irresponsible and careless people, that is the opportunity to amuse the mass of the people. A good laugh is better than a dose of physic. The millionaire who shall erect for himself the Hall of Fame that a people's theatre with the motto over the door, "It is to laugh" would be, would really do a work of far-reaching philanthropy and wisdom.

Ned Todd and a Seventeen Thousand Dollar Telephone Girl.

The Kansas Telephone Girl who drew the lot from the Government last summer located in Indian Territory and valued at Seventeen Thousand Dollars, will no doubt be interested as well as all of COMFORT readers in our Great Frontier Detective Story, "Ned Todd."

The second installment of this great and exciting serial will be found in this issue, and we call special attention of our many readers to our special offer to furnish back numbers and also to the Special Six Months' 10c. Coupon Trial Subscription offer on this page—which will continue for thirty days longer—we also call your attention to some of the new departments introduced in COMFORT this month.

Next month, besides other new features, a thrilling new Serial Story of Love and Adventure will begin and every old subscriber should at once renew while the yearly subscription price is only 25c.

months in advance, the subscription to continue at the old price, unless you otherwise order. You get a six months' trial subscription for ten cents, and continue for 25c. a year if you like. If you do not like, you can stop it at any time. We feel that this offer will be fully appreciated by our many readers and if you are already a paid up subscriber it would be well for you all to accept the same at once and have your subscription extended at the low price now offered.

To Our New Readers. We hold this offer open for 30 days and any new readers who now wish to subscribe on these remarkably favorable conditions can do so by at once filling out and sending us the subscription blank printed herewith and 10c. in cash.

I Will Cure You of Rheumatism. No Pay Until You Know It.

After 2,000 experiments, I have learned how to cure Rheumatism. Not to turn bony joints into flesh again; that is impossible. But I can cure the disease always, at any stage, and forever.

I ask for no money. Simply write me a postal and I will send you an order on your nearest druggist for six bottles of Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Cure, for every druggist keeps it. Use it for a month, and if it does what I claim, pay your druggist \$5.50 for it. If it doesn't, I will pay him myself.

I have no samples. Any medicine that can affect Rheumatism with but a few doses must be drugged to the verge of danger. I use no such drugs. It is folly to take them. You must get the disease out of the blood.

My remedy does that, even in the most difficult, obstinate cases. No matter how impossible this seems to you. I know it and I take this risk. I have cured tens of thousands of cases in this way, and my records show that 39 out of 40 who get those six bottles pay, and gladly. I have learned that people in general are honest with a physician who cures them. That is all I ask. If I fail I don't expect a penny from you.

Simply write me a postal card or letter. Let me send you an order for the medicine; also a book. Take it for a month, for it won't harm you anyway. If it cures pay \$5.50. I leave that entirely to you. Address Dr. Shoop, Box 304, Racine, Wis.

Mild cases, not chronic, are often cured by one

YOU CAN ONLY HAVE ONE MOTHER.

WORDS AND MUSIC BY W. A. WRAY.

Andante moderato.

p

1. Soft - ly the moon floats thro' the sky,
2. Those words I heard, but when a child—
3. 'Twas she who watch'd my in - fant step—

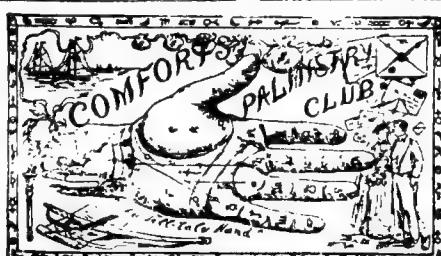
As I kneel by the grave of my
And now I'm a wo - man
And held my ba - by

moth-er, . . . Thinking of the hap-py, hap-py days gone by, And how I used to love her. . . . I see her sweet, her dar - ling face. The grown; . . . The lips that ut-tered them are cold, . . . Her soul to Heav - en has flown. . . . But I can ne'er for - get . . . her, As hand— . . . 'Twas she who taught me my first pray'r, To gain that hap - py land. . . . She will stand by you to the last, Your

CHORUS. Waltz, a tempo.

smile that o'er it played; . . . I hear a - gain her gen - tle voice, That al - ways to me said, . . . 1&2. Re - mem - ber, girl, wher-e'er you she her Bi - ble read, . . . And lift - ing her dim eyes to mine, These words a - gain she said, . . . faults she'll ev - er cov - er—God will look down and bless you, girl, If you love your dear, good moth-er. . . . 3. Re - mem - ber this, wher-e'er you

roam, With sis - ter, broth - er, lov - er, . . . Your ha - ven will be al - ways "Home." You can on - ly have one moth - er. . . .
roam, With sis - ter, broth - er, lov - er, . . . Some day you'll glad - ly come back home, But you'll miss that an - gel moth - er. . . .



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS

ASUBSCRIBER asks the meaning of a marriage or attachment line with a cross against it. It is a bad sign and the sign of some obstacle in the way of the marriage or trouble afterwards, but unless it appears in both hands this does not hold.

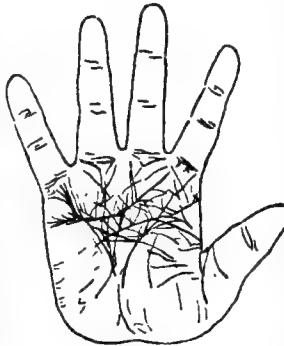
She also says: "A line heavy and deep, with two smaller, short lines accompanying it, starts from the heart line, both hands, (tho' the left is not nearly so deep) rises to the head line and cuts diagonally thro' it, breaking the head line under Saturn; this head line goes on and ends in stars just above the percussion. This line from heart to head is growing longer. What does it signify?" I should call such a line a worry line which would indicate some trouble connected with the heart which causes the subject a good deal of anxiety. It may also mean some danger to the life either by accident or murderous design. If the head line, however, ends in a star on Jupiter, this means a great deal of good luck with an honorable marriage. On the contrary, if it is on the other side of the hand on the percussion under the Mount of Mercury, it would mean some

strange fatality coming into the life. A star is seldom a fortunate sign.

Again she said: "When the health or fate lines are twisted together near the wrist and two short, straight lines run from them into the life line at about 60 or 65—what means that?" These marks would mean a very severe illness at that time and possibly death.

"I. S. Grandmother" sends impression of her hand for reading this month. She has a pecu-

lier hand and one which I should prefer to examine personally on account of the strangeness of some of the lines. As I have often said, it is difficult to judge of a hand by a smoke paper impression as the quality, shape and other things about a hand, which will affect their reading, do not show in any kind of an impression. In fact some of our best palmists refuse to read from impressions at all, although they often take impressions to keep after they have read the hand itself. I. S. has lead or will lead, a rather strange life. She suffered from ill health during her girlhood and was prevented from doing exactly as she chose by those who were her natural guardians. She married young, and happily and I think will marry the second time after she is forty. There was, however, some strange circumstance connected with that first marriage which I frankly confess I do not quite make out under these impressions. I think she married some one either by coercion or because of the advice of friends, but the happier marriage will come later in life. There was some love affair early in life which caused her a great deal of trouble. One of her marriages, however, and I think the last one will prove very fortunate as she has a star on the Mount of Jupiter which is enough in itself to offset a good many bad signs.



I. B. GRANDMOTHER

ever. She has many natural gifts of person and of mind. She has many friends and her talents are such that she might make a success of the stage if she would choose that as her profession. I would, however, advise her when she was near a good palmist to go and see him and get his reading. I am often asked to tell the exact truth about what I see in a hand but nearly always I am severely blamed if all I read is not favorable. Mr. Heron Allen gives an experience which is common I think to most palmists. On one occasion he was accosted by a crowd of young people who asked him to read their hands. He answered that he would read only one set and picking out a very young girl with a childish face and a lot of fluffy hair, told her that he would read hers but that if there was anything in her life she did not want her companions to know to say so and he would read someone's else. She denied this and then he looked at her hands for an instant. Again looking up into the laughing, childish face he said:

"You look about nineteen, and as if you had never had a trouble in your life, but you have had the most terrible time of it I have ever seen written on a hand so young as yours. You have been married twice, and this, of all things, strikes me in your hand, that you married your second husband when your first husband was alive. Your first marriage was an affair of pique, an impulse of your foolish head, and was a miserable one; your second was an affair of heart, a love-match, but it was extremely bad for you from a commercial point of view. Even now, whilst you walk here with a smile on your lips and a racquet in your hand, you are undergoing some mental agony: let me congratulate you on being the most astounding—actress, shall I say?—that I have ever come across."

ever come across.

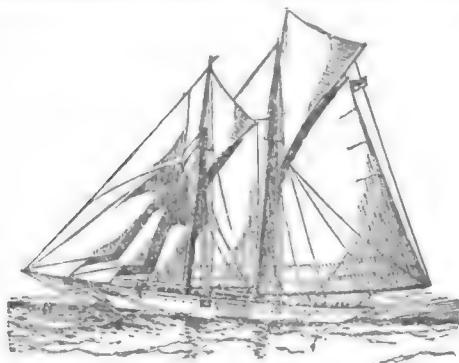
She was silent for a moment, and then said: "What I am going to tell you no one but my maid, who is in Chicago now, has ever known, and I tell it to you as a reward for speaking so boldly in the face of the magnificent lie I told you just now. I am an American and came here with some people today, and don't know a soul in the place; I am twenty-three (though I don't look it). At eighteen I quarrelled with my people, and in a fit of rage, married, simply to get rid of them. My husband turned out a scoundrel and knocked me about, to speak

plainly, and after a year we were divorced. When I was twenty I fell in love for the first time, and married a man whom I simply worshipped. We were as happy as possible, but after a few months he was struck with a fever that gradually wasted him away, and he died two years ago, leaving me simply a pauper, for during his illness his business in Chicago left him. I came over here with some friends. What you say about my present state of mind is quite true, for I saw my first husband yesterday at the Academy, and have been in a state of terror ever since. Now, if you please, we will go back and lie to the other people about what you have been telling me."

and two beautiful steel buckles.
Price only \$1.95.

Write for free Illustrated Spring and Summer Fashion Catalog of Millinery and Ladies' Wearing Apparel. For 25¢ extra we deliver any trimmed hat, securely packed in a patent metal bound box, to your nearest direct express office, express charges prepaid.

CHICAGO MAIL ORDER & MILLINERY COMPANY,
In Our New Building, NW Cor State & Monroe, Chicago



THE GERMAN EMPEROR'S YACHT.

The Emperor's Yacht.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

A drawing of a yacht, labeled "A.Y.C.", with the text: "T Shooters Island, in New York harbor, at this writing, the finishing touches are being put on the schooner yacht being built from A. Cary Smith's design to the order of the Emperor of Germany. By courtesy of his designer, a drawing has been made of her from actual design, which shows exactly how she will look when under sail."

The new yacht is built of steel, with steel deck angle iron for beam and frames. The yacht is built especially strong, as she is to make voyages across the North Sea and German ocean, and to the north. She is of the cruiser type, with channel plates on the outside. She is a clean-cut looking ship and is built to rate first-class in every particular. In every essential she is a New York boat from keel to truck. She was designed and built there, and everything about her rig and sails was made in New York.

The launching of this magnificent boat is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, and the event will be of international interest. Miss Alice Roosevelt, daughter of the President, will act as sponsor for the vessel. Prince Henry of Prussia, brother to the Emperor, is to be present at the great festivity which, it is confidently expected, will exceed in grandeur any similar event in the world's history. While in America Prince Henry will be entertained by the nation and by several of the leading cities.

The royal yacht, Hohenzollern, has already arrived in New York and will participate in the launching program. Admiral Count von Baudissin is in command. Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans is in charge of the naval display in honor of the German prince.

The entire country and even the whole world awaits with intense interest the launching of the American yacht built for the Emperor of Germany, which, however, would pass as an event of no extraordinary interest, had not the Emperor made it an opportune occasion to display to the world the cordial good will existing between the German and American governments, and to thus put at rest the rumors of international friction which have disturbed the press and the people of both countries since the outbreak of the Spanish-American war.

The whole thing was suggested and planned by the Emperor as a most delicate and handsome compliment to American people and to their government and President.

When it is remembered that this Prince Henry whom he sends to represent him is the same, who as commander of the German naval squadron at Manila had the misunderstanding with Admiral Dewey, it is almost suggestive of an apology.

The Emperor's invitation for Miss Roosevelt to act the leading part in the ceremony, which the Emperor has sent his brother to take part in, is a public and official recognition that the daughter of a President ranks equally with the princes of the royal blood.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the American people will give the Prince such a reception as the good will which prompted his mission merits.



PRINCE HENRY OF PRUSSIA.

The following facts about Prince Henry of Prussia will be found of special interest at this time:

HIS FAMILY.

He is of the Prussian royal family of Hohenzollern.

He is the only brother of the reigning German Emperor; son of a German Emperor; grandson of a German Emperor; great-grandson of a long line of Prussian Kings.

He is a nephew of the King of England and grandson of Queen Victoria.

He is a brother-in-law and also own cousin of the Czarina of Russia.

He is intimately connected by blood or marriage with the ruling houses of all the smaller German principalities and kingdoms.

At the time of his birth, his grandfather, William I., was King of Prussia, the empire not having been formed.

In 1871, his grandfather became first Emperor of the modern German Empire.

In 1888, his father, Frederick III., ascended the throne of Germany as second Emperor. The same year Frederick III. died and was succeeded by his son, Henry's brother, William II., the present Emperor.

William II. has several children, who are now in line for succession to the throne. Prince Henry's chance of ever becoming Emperor is therefore extremely remote.

HIS PHYSIQUE.

He is six feet and half an inch tall.

He weighs about 182 pounds.

He is always in the pink of physical condition and has not an ounce of fat upon his frame.

He wears a light brown beard and mustache. The mustache he allows to grow naturally, and he will not have barbers playing with it as they do with his imperial brother's.

His beard is trimmed to a point.

His eyes are blue and clear. He does not wear glasses.

He is tireless, physically.

He is extraordinarily full-blooded, for he can stand for hours in a suit of wet clothes in a bitter wind and experience no ill results.

Even in the ball room of the imperial palace at Berlin he walks with the rolling swagger of a sailor. Directions from the Emperor on this point have no effect upon him.

His face is deeply tanned from long years at sea.

His hands are coarse and red, and his nails kept short for the same reason.

His conversational tone is clear and hearty.

When singing he has a mellow bass voice.

HIS MORALES.

Unlike the great majority of royalties, he made a love match. Bismarck opposed the princess whom he selected, but he said he would remain a bachelor forever if he were denied. He had his way.

He has been a loving and faithful husband. Though the multitudinous temptations incident to a combination of sea life and royalty have been thrown in his way, he has laughed them off. No scandal has ever tainted his name.

He was dutiful son, the favorite of his father, who left him the bulk of his private fortune.

He is a devoted father, making it an object of his life to lighten the burden of his eldest son, Waldeimar, who is deaf and dumb.

He drinks beer, wine and spirits, but never to excess.

He smokes cigars and pipes, but not cigarettes. He plays cards for money, but never so heavily as to involve his opponents beyond their immediate means.

He is not extravagant. Not even in his youth, when his allowance was comparatively small, did he run into debt.

A Cure for

Rheumatism

Of which any suffering reader can have

A 50 CENT
BOX FREE!

For rheumatism, that horrible plague, I discovered a harmless remedy, and in order that every suffering reader may learn about it, I will gladly mail him a box free. This wonderful remedy which I discovered by a fortunate chance, has cured many cases of 30 and 40 years' standing, among them persons of upwards 90 years of age. No matter what your form of rheumatism is, this remedy will surely cure you. Do not mind if other remedies have failed to cure you, nor mind if doctors say you are incurable. Mind no one but write me at once and by return mail you will receive the box, also the most elaborate illustrated book ever gotten up on the subject of rheumatism absolutely free. It will tell you all about your case. You got this remedy and wonderful book at the same time, both free, so let me hear from you at once.

JOHN A. SMITH,
3476 Germania Bldg., Milwaukee, Wis.

**FREE WATCH AND CHAIN
For One Day's Work**

Fully Guaranteed.

We will send you a Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm, for selling 18 pkgs. of BLUINE at ten cents each. Bluine is the best laundry bluing in the world, and the fact is well known. Send our full name and address by return mail, and we will forward Bluine, postpaid, and our large Premium List. It costs you nothing. Simply send us the money you get for the Bluine, and we will send you the Watch, Chain and Charm, postpaid.

BLUINE MFG. CO., Box 556 Concord Junction, Mass.

The old reliable firm who sell honest goods, and give valuable premiums.

We Sell **40 GRANULATED SUGAR \$1.00**
with other groceries and more, at cut price. Valuable formulas free to new customers. Send eight 2-cent stamps for our catalogue detailing our big bargains how to order. We rebate 16-cents on first gross order. Catalogue costs you nothing. Big Money for Agents. F. WARREN REED, ANTILION, Importers and Jobbers, CHICAGO, ILL.

COSTS YOU
NOTHING

LADIES OR GENTS SIZE
FREE
WATCH, together with a chain and charm, also a beautiful Venezuelan Diamond Ring, perfectly cut and inscribed for selling our remedy. One thousand elegant and graceful equal to a paragraph to a \$1.00 watch, and guaranteed for two years. Our 30-day proposition which is apart from the above. Send name and address (no money), we send you 4 boxes of Dr. Thompson's Cough Tablets, sell them at 25c. per box, send us the \$1 received and we will send you a handsome Watch-Chain and Charm, also a beautiful Gold Plated Venezuelan Diamond Ring. The greatest offer ever made for selling only \$1.00 worth of goods.

C. E. ESTER REMEDY CO., Dept. 15 Newark, N. J.

HIS TEMPERAMENT.
He is the only one of the Hohenzollerns who has a sense of humor. In spite of his love for music, he is not of a melancholy disposition, nor is he subject to moods. He is not vain; nor does he relish the frills and furbelows of court life.

Contrarywise, he likes to be at sea, where he knows he is down to the elements. Waves and wind do not flatter.

He has the only democratic nature of all the royalties in Europe. He easily gets on terms of good-fellowship with all whom he meets.

He has a large degree of personal magnetism, which enables him to impress favorably people he meets for the first time.

He despises all men not thoroughly masculine; and women not entirely feminine.

He is fearless, both morally and physically. He has risked his life for common sailors on the ship twice. He talks back to the Emperor when he feels like it, and has been banished two or three times temporarily for *lesse majeste* to his brother.

He is supernaturally calm, and has never been "rattled."

HIS TITLES.

His name, Albert William Henry Hohenzollern. His rank, vice-admiral and chief of the first squadron of the German navy.

Honorary general of the First Regiment of Foot Guard; of the Ludwig Fusiliers; of the Twenty-fifth Hessian Artillery.

Honorary colonel of the Thirty-fifth Prussian Fusiliers, known as "Prince Henry of Prussia's Own;" of the Thirty-third Russian Dragoons, known as "Prince Henry of Prussia's Own;" Actual colonel of the Twentieth Austrian Infantry.

Honorary vice-admiral of Austrian navy.

Knight of the Order of the Black Eagle, Knight of the Order of the Golden Fleece, Knight of the Order of the Annunciation, Knight of the Order of the Elephant, Knight of the Order of the Seraphim, Knight of the Garter, Knight of the Order of St. Andrew, etc.

Possessor of the Distinguished Service Order of Prussia. Never bestowed honorarily, but solely for acts of gallantry.

His official title, Prince Henry of Prussia.

Form of address, "His Highness."

ORANGE LILY

Cured me of painful periods, leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, etc., after doctors gave me up and all other remedies failed. No physician required. I will send a trial box free to any lady. Address Mrs. H. L. Fretter, Detroit, Mich.

The Demand for Incubators.

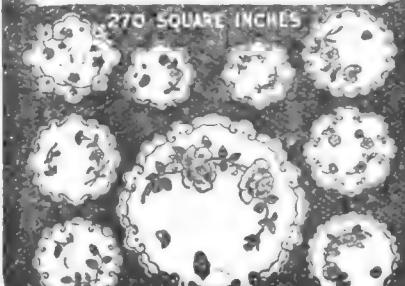
The demands of chicken growers and breeders for very simple but reliable incubators grow greater each year. George H. Stahl of Quincy, Ill., manufactures incubators built on scientific principles and to anyone interested in chicken raising or breeding of any kind, circular and catalogue will be mailed free upon request.

Six Steel Pens Free.

Millions of people use steel pens and we have bought an immense lot which we want to introduce into new families. Will send six of different kinds, fine, coarse and medium, to all who send two cents for mailing expenses. Lane & Co., Augusta, Maine.

FREE CENTER PIECE
SIX LARGE DOILIES
AND TWO SMALL ONES

To introduce BOYCE'S MONTHLY in your home we make you a present appreciated by every lady. Boyce's Monthly is beautifully illustrated in colors and contains the writings of popular authors as well as other instructive and interesting reading. Send only ten cents for a Six months' trial subscription to Boyce's Monthly and get by return mail the centerpiece, 6 large doilies and 2 small ones—270 square inches of linen—stamped with the latest designs as illustration shows. All different, on fine linen, ready to work, and they are ABSOLUTELY FREE! Address BOYCE'S MONTHLY, DEPT. 98 CHICAGO, ILL.



FREE! AS BIG AS BABY, FREE!

Indestructible Stuffed Dolls that Stand Up or Sit Down. Their Heads Will Not Come Off.

These unbreakable dolls are nearly two feet high and so arranged they can either stand up or sit down. Their Beautiful Golden Hair, bright red stockings and black shoes make them very attractive for either very young or older children. You get one of these dolls and are sure that the nose can't be broken off nor can the eyes punch in. Their heads, made of colored checks and ruby lips retain their color and shape for all time. Every child delights to have from one to twenty different kinds of dolls in their family. Bright inventors, artists, and mechanics have been at work for years trying to perfect low-price, jointed indestructible dolls that can be made to sit down or stand up. These dolls are made of cloth and wood and are jointed at the neck, shoulders, hips and legs, and be placed in all sorts of acute positions, either when dressed or undressed. The doll shown in cut, just patented, is a most wonderful and successful result of long, weary trials. They are beautifully finished, and can be placed in any natural position for hours and hours for years. Are more lifelike than anything ever gotten out before. For hours and hours every child will play with these good old grandma style unbreakable stuffed dolls, even putting aside the very expensive and more elegantly dressed dolls, never tiring of these as they can be dressed in many different



ways to suit the taste. They can be filled with more or less cotton just as the weight is preferred, as the material they are made of enables you to sew them together easily, so as to have a good, fat, plump dollie or one of lighter weight.

You Can Get Them Free.

Our popular family magazines has the most popular stories, but we desire 10,000 new trial subscribers. We have arranged to give these dolls for club raising and will send one, all charges fully prepaid, if you send the name of one new six months' subscriber at 15c. with 4c. additional for postage, ILL. in all.

Remember. We send this magazine for one month to the subscriber you secure and send the Doll to you as a premium. Will send two Dolls for a yearly subscriber at 25c. each, if 6c. additional is sent for postage, ILL. in all. Four dolls free for a club of three yearly subscribers at 25c. each, 75c. in all. Address COMFORT, Box X, Augusta, Maine.

Sick Made Well
Weak Made Strong.

Marvelous Elixir of Life Discovered by Famous Doctor-Scientist That Cures Every Known Ailment.

Wonderful Cures are Effected That Seem Like Miracles Performed. The Secret of Long Life of Olden Times Revived.

The Remedy Is Free to All Who Send Name and Address.

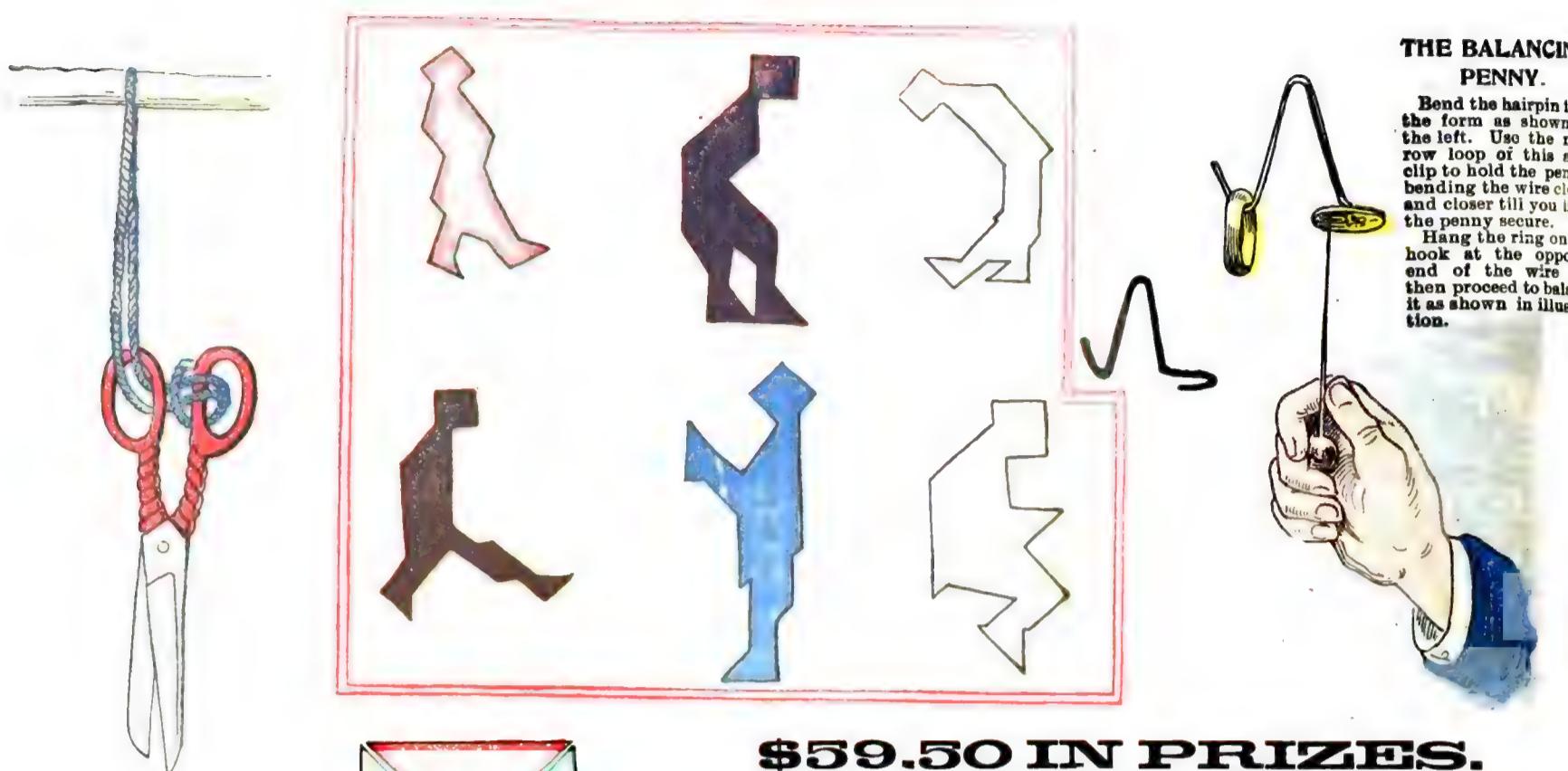
After years of patient study, and delving into the dusty record of the past, as well as following modern experiments in the realms of medical science, Dr. James W. Kidd, 222 Baltes Block, Fort Wayne, Ind., makes the startling announcement that he has



DR. JAMES WILLIAM KIDD.

surely discovered the elixir of life. That he is able with the aid of a mysterious compound, known only to himself, produced as a result of the years he has spent in searching for this precious life giving boon, to cure any and every disease that is known to the human body. There is no doubt of the doctor's earnestness in making his claim and the remarkable cures that he is daily effecting seems to bear him out very strongly. His theory which he advances is one of reason and based on sound experience in a medical practice of many years. It costs nothing to try his remarkable "Elixir of Life," as he calls it, for he sends it free, to anyone who is a sufferer, in sufficient quantities to convince of its ability to cure, so there is absolutely no risk to run. Some of the cures cited are very remarkable, and but for reliable witnesses would hardly be credited. The lame have thrown away crutches and walked about after two or three trials of the remedy. The sick, given up by home doctors, have been restored to their families and friends in perfect health. Rheumatism, neuralgia, stomach, heart, liver, kidney, blood and skin diseases and bladder troubles disappear as by magic. Headaches, backaches, nervousness, fevers, consumption, coughs, colds, asthma, catarrh, bronchitis and all affections of the throat, lungs or any vital organs are easily overcome in a space of time that is simply marvelous.

Partial paralysis, locomotor ataxia, dropsy, gout, scrofula and piles are quickly and permanently removed. It purifies the entire system, blood and tissues, restores normal nerve power, circulation and a state of perfect health is produced at once. To the doctor all systems are alike and equally affected by this great "Elixir of Life." Send for the remedy to-day. It is free to every sufferer. State what you want to be cured of and the sure remedy for it will be sent you free by return mail.



THE BALANCING PENNY.

Bend the hairpin into the form as shown at the left. Use the narrow loop of this as a clip to hold the penny, bending the wire closer and closer till you have the penny secure.

Hang the ring on the hook at the opposite end of the wire and then proceed to balance it as shown in illustration.

\$59.50 IN PRIZES.

Comfort's Laughable Picture Puzzle.

At the left we print a dissected square of seven pieces in many colors, while above the artist has shown a few of the many cute and grotesque imitations of the human figure which can be made from the various arrangements of these cut up pieces.

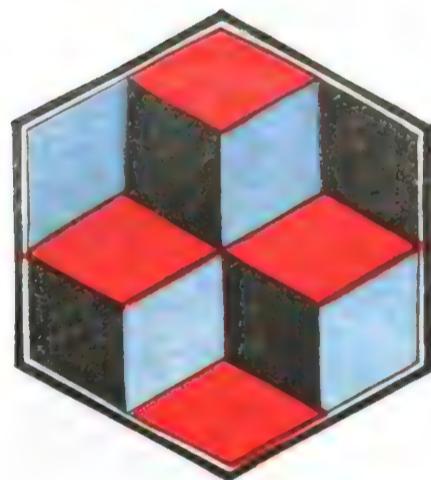
DIRECTIONS. Cut out the several pieces and paste them neatly on light cardboard. Then study the arrangement of them and you will be surprised at the great number of different figures you will be able to make. When you have hit upon what you think the cutest and most grotesque arrangement resembling the human figure (one is enough), paste the pieces on a clean sheet of paper just large enough to go into an envelope as per conditions below and address to COMFORT PUZZLE DESK, Augusta, Maine.

CONDITIONS. HOW TO WIN A PRIZE. Each contestant for the Prizes must themselves be a paid in advance subscriber to "COMFORT" and secure one 6 months' trial subscriber sending the 10c. for same with their arrangement of the Puzzle.

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED. To the sender of the cutest and most grotesque arrangement we will present a nice \$25.00 Bicycle. To the next a \$15.00 Dinner Set, 112 pieces. To the next \$10.00 in cash. To the next \$5.00 in cash. To the next three each a watch valued at \$1.50 each. In the awards, neatness will be considered. Awards will be announced in May "COMFORT". Address COMFORT PUZZLE DESK, Augusta, Maine.

To Free the Scissors

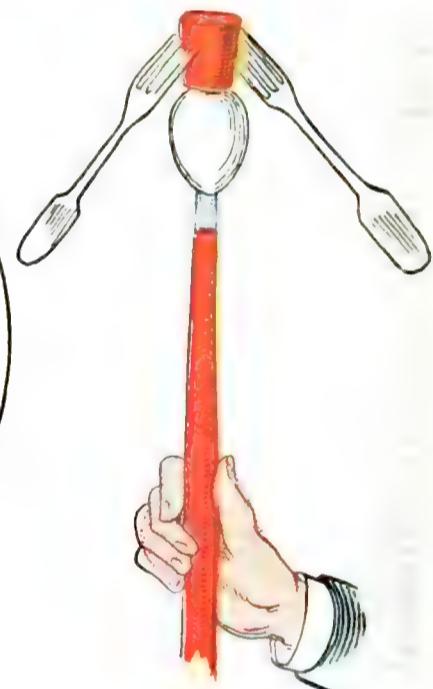
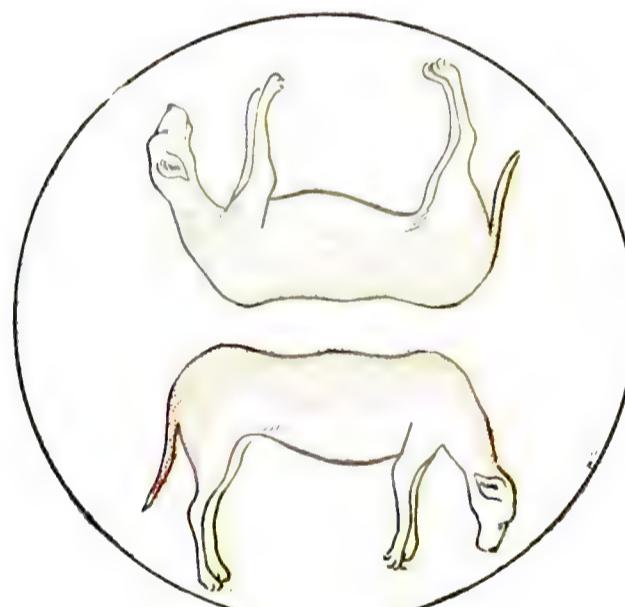
without cutting the string. Pass the loop through the opposite bow, and over the ends of the scissors, when they will be free.



THE TUMBLING CUBES.

Gaze steadily at the center when you will see alternately one cube on the top of two cubes, or two cubes on the top of one cube. The cubes, in fact, appear to be continuously turning topsy-turvy as shown in the above small illustrations.

The Misleading Railway Track.
These four lines below are exactly parallel though they appear to converge.



THE DEAD DOGS. The two dogs are obviously dead. Required by the addition of four lines to restore them to life again. How is it done? Solution will be given in COMFORT next month. Take advantage of Prize Offer above and you will receive copy of COMFORT containing solution.

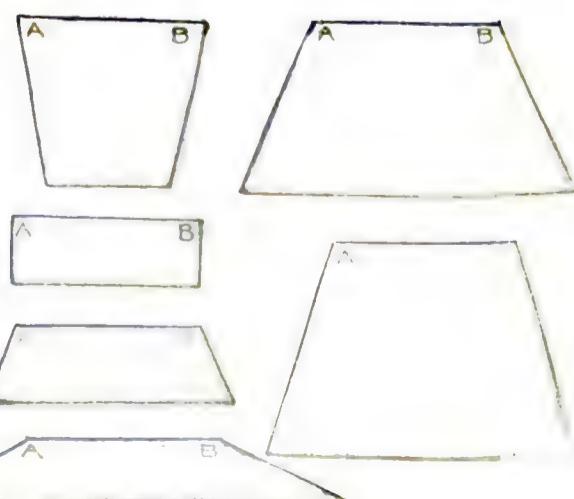
To balance an egg on the point of a walking stick. Have the egg boiled hard. Thrust the two forks into the cork, one on each side, so that they shall form an angle of about 60 degrees to each other. Hold the stick ferrule upwards firmly between the knees—etc., as in illustration.

The deceptive Geometrical figures. The sides A to B are all the same length. Measure them.

Comfort's Feature Page:

We present this month one of our feature pages, in which the artist has labored to please all our readers, young and old. No part of COMFORT was ever more popular than these pages of assorted delight. The people of America are puzzle lovers and in this respect we attempt to please by a selection of novelties which afford much innocent amusement.

This issue of COMFORT is well worth your close attention for this as well as hundreds of other features which go to make it the people's paper, the favorite home monthly of America, the one magazine which cheers each month a million and a quarter homes. If you are not a subscriber you can become one, on trial, accepting the \$59.50 Prize Puzzle offer made on this page. Extra copies of this issue will be mailed direct to your friends on receipt of your order and 2 cents for each copy desired.





FREE BOOK ON HYPNOTISM

Would you like to exert a strange and magic power over others? Do you desire to possess an accomplishment by which you can make both fun and money? If so, you should become a Hypnotist. You can now master this wonderful, mysterious and fascinating science free of all cost at your own home. By a few hours' study you can learn all about the secrets, methods, uses and wonders of the hypnotic trance. You can surprise and mystify all your friends by placing anyone you wish under this weird and magical spell, and compel them to see, think, feel, and act precisely as you wish. You can control the minds of others, perform the most wonderful and astounding feats, and create fun and amazement for yourself and your audience. You can do a thousand amazing things that other people cannot do, and make yourself famous. If you want to *make money*, you can do so by giving entertainments, curing disease, or teaching the art to others. These are three sure and easy ways to win a fortune. Why be poor? Why work for others, when you can master this money-making profession so easily! Investigate now. It costs nothing to find out all about it. Professor Harraden, the world renowned Hypnotist, has issued a large and elegant FREE BOOK, entitled "A Key to the Mysteries of Hypnotism" and anybody can get a copy of it without one cent of cost, merely for the asking. Simply send for it by letter or postal and it will be sent you free and prepaid by return mail. It is the most beau-

tiful, interesting and valuable book ever published. It contains hundreds of beautiful pictures and is a marvel of elegance and splendor. The cover is a gem of art and the printing and other features simply perfect. Best of all, this charming book tells you how to become a hypnotist. Every secret and mystery is here explained in the simplest language and you are amazed to find that you can master all these powers yourself and wield the subtle forces of mind as well as any operator in the land. You are also shown how you may heal the sick, relieve pain, cure bad habits, give sleep to the restless and comfort to the sorrowing. And for yourself, as this free Book shows, you can win promotion, social and business standing, influence, friends or love you most desire, and in short, all that is necessary to make you rich, esteemed, and happy as long as life lasts. This book also treats fully on *Hypnotic Diagnosis*. Many interesting subjects and how to *cure yourself* of any pain, ache or disease. In spite of its great value and precious contents this book is free to you—free as any gift ever held out by a generous hand. There is no cost, no charges whatever. Simply write for it and it will be sent by next mail, all charges paid. Don't send any money, not even a stamp, but send your name and address TODAY, and learn how to win health, wealth, and fame. Address, PROF. L. A. HARRADEN, Dept. 3, Jackson, Mich.



How to Build a Boat.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY H. EDWARD SWIFT.

Copyright, 1902, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



OST boys are looking ahead to the coming of summer and some are even planning what they will do. If a boy has a mechanical turn of mind nothing will give him more enjoyment and satisfaction than to build a boat. The following description will give all the instruction necessary to build a boat twelve ft. long. Take ten or eleven boards not over 7-8 of an inch thick, 7 inches wide and about 13 feet long. Also 2 boards 7-8 inch thick, 14 inches wide and 13 ft. long, free from knots. These are for the side boards and should be of good clear stock, of pine or cedar, so they can be bent alike.

Cut a piece shaped like Fig. 1, the length over all being 4 feet, the width 12 inches, the length on the bottom side 3 feet and 6 inches. This is for a cross board. Make a similar piece of oak, if you can get it, 28 inches long, 10 inches wide, and the length of the bottom edge, 22 inches. This is for the stern piece.

The ends of each side board should be sawed off like the ends of the cross board making the short side of the board about 8 inches shorter than the longer. Beginning 4 feet from the ends of the side boards you wish for the stern end, taper them back to 10 inches wide, on one side only. Set the side boards B B, Fig. 2, on edge parallel with the longer edge uppermost and at about the middle place the cross board making the

base of the sail 2 ft. longer. The extra length of mast will allow for the hoisting of the sail which should be secured by wooden or iron hoops at intervals of one foot. The whole would probably cost complete about twelve dollars; without the centerboard, rudder, mast and sail the boat would cost about six dollars. A good deal will depend upon the ability and good judgment of the boy who builds the boat as to what the boat looks like when finished, but if care is used and the foregoing directions followed closely you will have a good boat and a fast sailer in smooth water.

FIG. 1.

board A between, with its longer edge uppermost. Nail the side boards lightly to the cross board and with ropes draw the two ends of the side boards together, the other ends draw to the stern piece C, Fig. 2. Make a stern piece by cutting grooves in a piece of oak 16 inches long as shown in Fig. 3. These grooves should be 7-8 of an inch deep, so that the side boards can be securely fastened to them when they are drawn together. See that the ends of the side boards fit nicely in these grooves and then nail them with galvanized nails if you can get them. Then fasten the stern piece in the same way.

Then carefully turn the boat over. The bottom boards can now be nailed on after placing the edges of the side boards so they will make a good joint along the bottom, after which a bottom board 8

inches wide should be put inside the whole length of the boat to stiffen the bottom. Of course you have to knock out the cross board to do this. It will be well to put brackets where the stern pieces joins the side boards on the top as in Fig. 4. Then in the stern about 6 inches from the top edge nail a cleat on each side parallel to the top for a seat 14 inches wide, also put in a seat the same distance from the top edge 5 feet from the stern and another half-way between this and the bow. Cover the bow of the boat 18 inches back from the stern as shown in Fig. 5, and then fit two gunwale pieces 2 1-2 inches wide on the sides the whole length of the boat as shown at A A in Fig. 6. B in Fig. 6 shows the seat in place. These should be fitted at the bow as in Fig. 7, so as to give a finished effect to the whole structure. If it is not convenient to get row locks, round holes may be bored in the gunwales about 3 inches apart and 9 inches astern of each seat. The holes should be seven-eighths of an inch in diameter and fitted with oak pins 6 inches long, so that when the pins are in place they will project about four inches above the gunwale.

FIG. 4.

This boat should have a keel of oak seven-eighths of an inch thick and two inches wide reaching from stern piece to stern with a wider triangular piece at the stern as shown in Fig. 8. to make the boat row steadier. This can be made into a sail boat by putting in a centerboard. Make a centerboard box 4ft. long and 10 inches wide as shown in Fig. 9 and then cut a hole lengthwise in the bottom of the boat 3 ft. and 8 inches long through the bottom, keel and inside board (this should be 1 inch

wide) after which securely nail the box in place after having covered the bottom edges with white lead or thick paint. The centerboard box should be made to take a seven-eighths inch centerboard easily allowing for swelling.

The board can be hinged as shown in Fig. 10 or can be used straight, simply sliding down the required depth. If hinged as in Fig. 10 fasten a cord A to the centerboard B, hung on the pin C to raise and lower the board as circumstances require. Make a rudder and tiller as in Fig. 11. The rudder should be 17 inches long and 12 inches wide, with a tiller 15 inches long all made of oak seven-eighths of

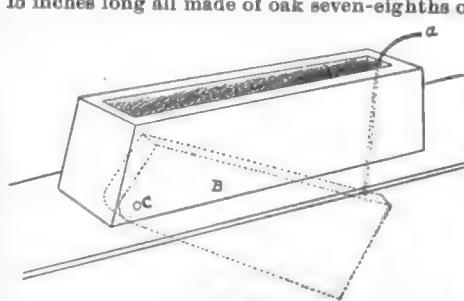


FIG. 10.

an inch thick nicely finished and shellacked. The boat is now ready to paint as the owner may fancy. Cut a hole 4 inches in diameter 12 inches from the bow as shown in Fig. 5 and put a step in the bottom of the boat directly under this to support the mast, which should be about 12 ft. long, 4 inches in diameter at the base, slightly tapered to the top. The sail can be of No. 1 duck and should be cut as in Fig. 12 which will give ample sail for a boat of this style. If you wish to use a sprit, a pole one and one-fourth inches in diameter placed as shown in the cut and secured to the mast by a loose loop is as easy as any thing to make, or you can use a boom and gaff, in which case the mast could be 18 inches longer and the

base of the sail 2 ft. longer. The extra length of mast will allow for the hoisting of the sail which should be secured by wooden or iron hoops at intervals of one foot. The whole would probably cost complete about twelve dollars; without the centerboard, rudder, mast and sail the boat would cost about six dollars. A good deal will depend upon the ability and good judgment of the boy who builds the boat as to what the boat looks like when finished, but if care is used and the foregoing directions followed closely you will have a good boat and a fast sailer in smooth water.

BOTANIC BLOOD BALM FREE!

Cures Blood and Skin Diseases, Itching Humors, Eczema, Cancer, Eating Sores, Blood Poison, Carbuncles, etc.

Send no money—simply write and try Botanic Blood Balm at our expense. A personal trial of Blood Balm is better than a thousand printed testimonials, so don't hesitate to write for a free sample.

If you suffer from ulcers, eczema, scrofula, Blood Poison, cancer, eating sores, itching skin, pimples, old sores that won't heal, scabs and scaly skin, carbuncles, boils, bone pains, swellings, rheumatism, catarrh, or any blood or skin disease, we advise you to take Botanic Blood Balm. Especially recommended for old, obstinate, deep-seated cases of malignant blood or skin diseases, because Botanic Blood Balm kills the poison in the blood, cures where all else fails, heals every sore, makes the blood pure and rich, gives the skin the rich glow of health. Botanic Blood Balm, pronounced by the medical investigator the most perfect blood purifier made. Thoroughly tested for 30 years. Costs \$1 per large bottle by express, prepaid. To prove it cures, sample of Blood Balm sent free by writing Blood Balm Co., 24 Mitchell St., Atlanta, Ga. Describe trouble and free medical advice sent in sealed letter. This is an honest offer—medicine sent at once, prepaid.

HONESTY.

Honesty is absolutely essential in the conduct of any business to make it continually successful and prosperous.

The advertisement of The Von Mohl Co., of Cincinnati, O., which appears on page 23 of this issue represents the largest and wealthiest business firm in the United States dealing exclusively in imported goods for special diseases.

It was established in 1885 and during a period of fifteen years surprisingly successful business the financial and mercantile character of the firm has never been questioned.

CHICAGO HOUSEHOLD GUEST 50 cents a year. Simple copy free on application.

FITS Epilepsy; the only sure treatment and quick cure; free to poor. Write Dr. Kraus Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Marriage PAPER FREE, many very rich. EASTERN AGENCY 84, Bridgeport, Ct.

LADIES Something New, making sofa pillows at home; \$7 to \$12 weekly; materials furnished; no canvassing; steady work. Send stamped addressed envelope. Household Mfg. Co., Erie St., Chicago.

Let Me Predict Your Future by My Wonderful EAST INDIAN MAGIC FORTUNE CARDS. Amazing, complete, satisfactory. Send One Dollar. Prince Mihira, Gen. Delivery, Springfield, Mass. Booklet for stamp.

MAGIC POCKET LAMP Lights without matches. Inkless pen writes with water. Also ten ways to get rich. All for 25c. silver. BOX 163, STATION G., WASH., D. C.

FIG. 5.

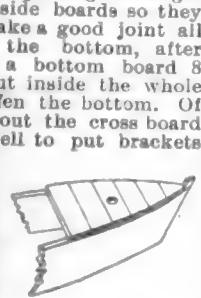


FIG. 6.

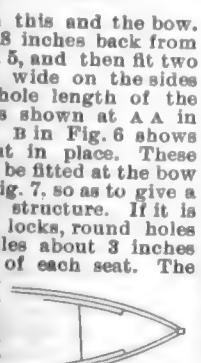


FIG. 7.

This boat should have a keel of oak seven-eighths of an inch thick and two inches wide reaching from stern piece to stern with a wider triangular piece at the stern as shown in Fig. 8. to make the boat row steadier. This can be made into a sail boat by putting in a centerboard. Make a centerboard box 4ft. long and 10 inches wide as shown in Fig. 9 and then cut a hole lengthwise in the bottom of the boat 3 ft. and 8 inches long through the bottom, keel and inside board (this should be 1 inch

Sell Your Real Estate.

We want good City and Farm property in all parts of the U. S. and Canada. Send description and cash price. **WINSLOW REALTY AND INVESTMENT CO., St. E., South Bend, Ind.**

\$5.95 1m. **DIAMOND SET** 14K GOLD PLATE FILLED

14K GOLD PLATE FILLED
diamond hunting case, elegantly engraved and set with approximately 100 diamonds. Case is 1 1/2 inches in diameter, fully adjusted patent regulator, fern lined and steel set movement; Ladies' or Gentleman's size.
WARRANTED 20 YEARS

The most perfect watch ever made at anywhere near the price. This watch sent to your nearest express office for examination. If found satisfactory, guaranteed, and elegant CHAIN AND CHARM with each watch. Your name on face of watch, if wanted, FREE. Write at once.

CHICAGO MFG. CO., 87 Washington St., Dept. 70, Chicago, Ill.

PRESENTS FREE 100 ELEGANT PRESENTS

we offer for little work in our behalf. Buttons are the latest creation in useful jewelry. Heavy Gold Plated, each button set with handsome imported Cut Jeweled Stones. Comes in Ruby, Emerald, Amethyst, etc. Every lady and gentleman uses collar buttons. Show our new buttons and you can sell to all who examine. We are manufacturers of jewelry novelties, not the inferior quality offered in so many Schema Ways, but the goods 14K Gold plate, goods that sell on sight and bring us future trade which we are after. **AN HONEST OFFER OF A PRESENT**

Send name and address and we send the Stone Set Collar Buttons. Send the 24 at 10c. each. Send us the \$2.40 and we send you the present you select and have earned. Full instructions and our large Premium List showing 100 other reliable presents for you to select from sent with goods. Address CHAMPION SUPPLY CO., Dept. 592, CHICAGO, ILL.

DAISY RIFLE
PREMIUM 120 DRESSED DOLL

TRIMMED HAT
LADIES
ALBUM
PRINTING PRESS
TYPEWRITER

FREE

To quickly introduce into every home our Electric Balm Completion, Toilet & Bath Soap, we offer 2,800 extra large genuine silk remnants absolutely free to every one answering this advertisement & promptly accept the proposition sent with every package of Soap & write at once to the ELECTRIC SOAP WORKS, N. Y. City, 27 Third Ave.

COUPON NUMBER 4082

CONDITION. With your application you must pin this numbered coupon to your name & address & send it to us at once. We will receive

the Royal Electric Balm, Toilet & Bath Soap which beautifies the complexion, erases pimples, blotches, freckles &

all facial eruptions exactly as described above, sent same day this coupon is received, all charges prepaid.

Instead of spending thousands advertising in newspapers, we advertise by sending the goods direct for you to try knowing you will appreciate the present & show them. If you want 2,800 extra large remnants from these marvelously beautiful silks free write at once for a package of Soap.

To quickly introduce into every home our Electric Balm Completion, Toilet & Bath Soap, we offer 2,800 extra large genuine silk remnants absolutely free to every one answering this advertisement & promptly accept the proposition sent with every package of Soap & write at once to the ELECTRIC SOAP WORKS, N. Y. City, 27 Third Ave.

COUPON NUMBER 4082

CONDITION. With your application you must pin this numbered coupon to your name & address & send it to us at once. We will receive

the Royal Electric Balm, Toilet & Bath Soap which beautifies the complexion, erases pimples, blotches, freckles &

all facial eruptions exactly as described above, sent same day this coupon is received, all charges prepaid.

Instead of spending thousands advertising in newspapers, we advertise by sending the goods direct for you to try knowing you will appreciate the present & show them. If you want 2,800 extra large remnants from these marvelously beautiful silks free write at once for a package of Soap.

To quickly introduce into every home our Electric Balm Completion, Toilet & Bath Soap, we offer 2,800 extra large genuine silk remnants absolutely free to every one answering this advertisement & promptly accept the proposition sent with every package of Soap & write at once to the ELECTRIC SOAP WORKS, N. Y. City, 27 Third Ave.

COUPON NUMBER 4082

CONDITION. With your application you must pin this numbered coupon to your name & address & send it to us at once. We will receive

the Royal Electric Balm, Toilet & Bath Soap which beautifies the complexion, erases pimples, blotches, freckles &

all facial eruptions exactly as described above, sent same day this coupon is received, all charges prepaid.

Instead of spending thousands advertising in newspapers, we advertise by sending the goods direct for you to try knowing you will appreciate the present & show them. If you want 2,800 extra large remnants from these marvelously beautiful silks free write at once for a package of Soap.

To quickly introduce into every home our Electric Balm Completion, Toilet & Bath Soap, we offer 2,800 extra large genuine silk remnants absolutely free to every one answering this advertisement & promptly accept the proposition sent with every package of Soap & write at once to the ELECTRIC SOAP WORKS, N. Y. City, 27 Third Ave.

COUPON NUMBER 4082

CONDITION. With your application you must pin this numbered coupon to your name & address & send it to us at once. We will receive

the Royal Electric Balm, Toilet & Bath Soap which beautifies the complexion, erases pimples, blotches, freckles &

all facial eruptions exactly as described above, sent same day this coupon is received, all charges prepaid.

Instead of spending thousands advertising in newspapers, we advertise by sending the goods direct for you to try knowing you will appreciate the present & show them. If you want 2,800 extra large remnants from these marvelously beautiful silks free write at once for a package of Soap.

To quickly introduce into every home our Electric Balm Completion, Toilet & Bath Soap, we offer 2,800 extra large genuine silk remnants absolutely free to every one answering this advertisement & promptly accept the proposition sent with every package of Soap & write at once to the ELECTRIC SOAP WORKS, N. Y. City, 27 Third Ave.

COUPON NUMBER 4082

CONDITION. With your application you must pin this numbered coupon to your name & address & send it to us at once. We will receive

the Royal Electric Balm, Toilet & Bath Soap which beautifies the complexion, erases pimples, blotches, freckles &

all facial eruptions exactly as described above



NED TODD The Oklahoma Detective, OR The Strange Cabin in the Wilderness.

BY HENRY DALE.

Author of "Boomers and Cattle Kings," "The Cheyenne Outbreak," "Shadowing a Shadow," "Chepita," "Mormonism Unveiled," Etc.

Copyright, 1902, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.

The opening chapters of this intensely interesting story appeared in February COMFORT. Back numbers may be obtained by enclosing three cents to COMFORT, Augusta, Me., for each number desired.

During the past year portions of Indian Territory were added to settlement by the Government allotment of lots by chance, and the scenes that were enacted in the years gone by, when Oklahoma was the objective point of settlers from east and west, north and south, were again presented in a much more exciting manner. A Kansas telephone girl lucky secured a lot valued at \$17,000, and others were nearly as fortunate.

Because of the exciting events that have transpired in Oklahoma and Indian Territory, events that have attracted the attention of the whole country, the story of "Ned Todd" is presented to our readers in the hope that instruction and entertainment may be derived from its perusal.

CHAPTER IV.

THE IDIOT'S STRANGE WARNING.

Ned Todd and his youthful companion sat with their backs to the window through which the baleful eyes of the Oklahoma bandit gleamed. It was now so dark that it is quite doubtful if they could have seen him, even if they had been looking in his direction.

Supper over, the two men rose from the table and walked to the front room. There lying on the floor kicking and chuckling, was the idiot. The youth paused a moment and gazed upon the wretched creature. Like some animal, he rolled upon the rug, sometimes chuckling and hugging it, as if it were the object of his warmest affections.

"Major, is he not a strange looking man?" asked Archie.

"Yes."

"And so unfortunate."

For a moment both stood and gazed at the idiot, who ceased his giggling and raising his head, gazed about the apartment with more shrewdness than they thought he possessed. Only Ned Todd, the Ranger, and Archie were in sight. On his elbows like a walrus he raised himself, and gazed about him for several moments, at last fixing his eyes on the youth before him. Then all of a sudden he fell down and began to giggle and roll over on his rug, kicking his feet about in every direction.

"Let us take a look at the horses, and see that they do not break through the corral, and stray off," said Todd.

The youth assented, and the two left the house. It was now quite dark. The moon was just beginning to rise, and the sky was cloudless, but there were so many shadows made by the tall forests, that it was even at this time almost dark.

"That is a very singular idiot," said the youth, as they walked toward the horses.

"Yes he is."

"Did you notice how he looked at me?"

"I did."

"Did you see what he did?"

"He looked at you."

"More than that."

"What was it?"

"He winked at me."

"He did?—and what did you do?"

"I winked back."

The border detective was silent for a few moments, and then said:

"Well it may only be the eccentricity of an idiot."

"So it may, but I will venture the assertion that that fellow has more sense than he gets credit for."

"There are our horses," said the ranger detective, as they paused near the tired animals. The moon had risen, and to a certain extent the great gloomy old forest was lighted up by its soft, resplendent rays.

"Don't you think it very strange that we should find people living here?" Archie asked.

"Yes, somewhat," the border detective answered. "Yet there may be a reason for all this seclusion. This man probably thinks that the boomers will ultimately be expelled by the soldiers, and the best thing that he can do is to live apart by himself."

"The soldiers may never find him here."

"It would be an accident if they did."

They turned to retrace their steps to the house. The moon was high enough now to shed a glorious light upon the dark aisles and narrow paths of the forest.

Suddenly Archie Holland started back and clutched the arm of his companion.

"What is the matter?" Ned asked.

"I saw a form in the woods on our left flitting about."

"What was it like?"

"I only caught a glimpse of it, and cannot say exactly what it is like; but I believe it was a man."

Each had instinctively laid his hand upon his revolver, and paused on the defensive. But as there came no sound, not even the crackling of a twig, the border detective said:

"You were certainly mistaken, Archie. It could not have been a man or we would have heard him. It was more likely a bird flying about to find a roosting place."

"I don't know what it was," Archie answered. "But I think after our experience of the day, we had better keep a sharp lookout. Things have a very mysterious appearance here."

"This Oklahoma mystery is deepening."

Todd answered, and his brow gathered into a troubled knot of cords and wrinkles. As they wended their way to the house, the youth remembering his mission to this wilderness, sighed and mentally ejaculated:

"Oh father, father! where are you now, that I may fly to your side, and release you from bondage."

When they reached the house, they found the idiot asleep on his sheepskin rug, and their old host sat in one corner near the great open fireplace smoking his pipe.

A tallow dip candle burning on the mantel, but dimly lighted the room.

"Set down," growled the sullen host, pointing to a couple of chairs.

The weary travelers complied with his request, and Archie's eyes began to wander restlessly about the apartment. Over the door was a gun rack in which lay a rifle. Over the mantel was another gun rack and another gun.

Standing in one corner of the room, leaning against the wall was a double-barreled shotgun. Then there were two or three pistol holsters, from which the butts of revolvers protruded, hanging from pegs on the wall.

"This solitary old man seems very well armed," thought Archie. He was about to speak to the border detective, when that personage turning to their host asked:

"How many sons have you?"

For a moment the old man seemed a little confused, but recovering himself, answered:

"Two."

"Where are they?"

"Down at the Boomers' camp."

There was nothing unreasonable in this, yet being in a land of mystery and danger, it was but natural that the detective should have his suspicions constantly on the alert.

Minutes glided by in silence. The old man sat in the corner smoking his pipe, and the idiot snored on the hearth. At last the host kicked the cripple saying:

"Quit that, Snap, make less noise."

The idiot chuckled and kicked his feet out as if he were highly delighted, and the host sank back in his heavy oaken chair and smoked.

border detective."

"Who? Todd?"

"Yes, nobody but Ned Todd."

The old man shrugged his shoulders and cast nervous glances behind him. After a few moments he said:

"Then we'd better wait until they are sound asleep."

"Yes."

"Get the entire force here by midnight."

The chief bowed and withdrew. In three or four seconds he had disappeared into the dark, gloomy old forest.

In the meantime Ned Todd and Archie had been left alone in their room, and to their not pleasant reflections.

"Major," said the youth, thoughtfully, "if we had obtained more complete explanation from Oklahoma Peg, we could have determined on our course with certainty."

The detective who had been busy with his thoughts, said:

"It's all a mystery to me. I cannot get heads or tails of it. I wish I could understand it, but I can't."

For some moments all was quiet, and both men were busy thinking. Then the youth yawned and turned his eyes toward the miserable bed in the corner of the room. The detective asked him if he were sleepy.

"Yes, and tired, too," was the answer, "but do you think that we dare to go to sleep?"

"One of us must stay awake," he answered.

"Then there is danger?"

"There may be. In this wilderness we may face a thousand perils before we know it."

"You can sleep and I will take the first watch," said Archie.

"You will have to keep your eyes and ears open."

"I know it."

There was a small window in the gable end of the house, from which they could get a partial view of the country and forest beyond. Here Archie took his position as guard. His companion, without removing his clothing, threw himself on the bed, one hand clasping the butt of a revolver.

"Let me and I will tell you," and he chuckled in his old idiotic manner, as if the habit had so fastened itself upon him that he could not get rid of it. With scarcely any perceptible noise, notwithstanding his deformity, he entered the room. "They think me a fool," he said, pausing to press his hand upon his forehead. "Bryce, Burton, and Dyke all think me a fool, but I am not."

This was said in a scarcely audible whisper after the door had been closed. The two men were standing in front of the idiot gazing at him with deep interest. The poor fellow seemed to be puzzling himself to gather up his scattered faculties, but after a few moments he again said:

"They think me a fool, but they are mistaken, he, he, he, I will yet prove too shrewd for them."

"Who do you mean?" the detective asked, for the fellow had again made a pause. His manner seemed at once to change.

After a desperate struggle, he gathered up his scattered faculties, and concentrating his mind on the subject of which he intended to speak, he said in a whisper:

"Do you know that you are in danger?"

"I suspect it, but did not really know," answered the detective.

"You are in deadly peril."

"From whom?"

For a moment the strange man seemed lost in reflection. He rubbed his scarred, misshapen face with his deformed hand, and asked:

"Have you heard of Captain Snell?"

"Yes."

"That's the name he goes by. He is the mysterious man of Oklahoma."

"Where is he? Is he the man whom we found here?" asked Archie.

"No, no," the cripple answered, shaking his head. "He has not been in sight, but he will be before morning. This is his stronghold, and if you remain here you will not live to see sunrise. It would be better to lie down and sleep in a den of wolves, than here amid these Oklahoma outlaws."

CHAPTER V.

THE TRAVELERS LOSE THEIR HORSES.

The cripple stood for a moment gazing up at the ceiling, as if he were trying to gather his scattered ideas. Beneath his rough, scarred face, shaggy, unkempt hair and beard, the close observer could readily discover the wreck of what were once exceedingly fine features.

Archie was sure there was something familiar about him, but he was at a loss to say what it was. As he was gazing at him, the youth was saying to himself:

"Did I ever meet that unfortunate man before? No, surely not. That face is strange to me, and yet there seems something about it that is familiar."

The cripple, in the meanwhile, realizing the danger of the travelers, said:

"You must go away from here. You must fly for your lives. Every moment that you delay only increases your danger. They are coming to kill you. I heard them say so when they thought me asleep."

The cripple then turned about, and despite his clubbed feet, noiselessly and rapidly crept down the narrow, cramped stairway. It seemed impossible for him to move those misshapen feet and hands without making some noise, but he did so. When he had gone, Archie turned to his companion and said:

"What does he mean?"

For a moment Ned Todd stood staring at the half open door, his whole attention given to the faculty of hearing. There was not a sound to break the calm, and after having assured himself that there was no one to hear him, he said:

"His warning may be only the insane twaddle of an idiot, yet it is sufficient for us to give it some consideration. We will make a careful examination of the premises. What can you see from that window?"

"Nothing but the forest, and moon in the sky."

Todd carefully closed the door.

"The moon shines brightly, and we ought to be able to get a view of something from the window."

"But there is a big blackberry tree growing almost against the house, which cuts off all view in the rear."

"We can utilize that tree," said Todd coming to the window.

"How?"

"Make it a ladder to climb down on."

"I had not thought of that. Do you suppose it will be necessary to resort to that plan of escape?"

"Yes."

"Why, there is no sign of danger. There is not a single sound that would alarm any one."

"But it is sometimes most dangerous when there is the least noise," said the border detective. They had brought their repeating rifles with them to their rooms, and their pistols were about their waists, so that they were well armed.

"Had we better look after the horses?" asked the youth.

"Yes, but there may be more danger in that than we think. I do not feel like running away, for, if this is the rendezvous of a bandit, as the idiot says, it is my duty to ferret them out, and bring them to justice. If it is not, then we have no cause to be running away."

"What would you advise?" asked Archie.

"Go out and reconnoiter."

"Well, I am ready."

"But only one must go. The other can remain here and keep a sort of guard," said the border detective.

"Is it not bad policy to divide our forces?" asked Archie.

"No, if these are bandits, they will not make their appearance before midnight."

"Who will reconnoiter?"

"I will go," said Ned Todd. "It may require some experience and shrewdness to manage business outside. In here, all that is necessary is courage and coolness, which with you are natural."

Going to the window the border detective climbed out upon the branches of the tree.

His movements were so cautious that he scarce made any noise at all. Archie stood within the apartment watching the man as he descended the tree and disappeared from view. When within a few feet from the earth, the border detective dropped silently to the ground and rose and hurried away to the horses.

"The whole country has been so dangerous to good horses," he thought, "that I am inclined to the opinion our animals are in more danger than ourselves."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20).

A MYSTERIOUS PUZZLE.

Ned Todd.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18.)

At this moment a noise like the crackling of a dry stick in a thicket attracted his attention. On his right was some underbrush so thick that the eye could scarce penetrate three paces into it, even in broad daylight. It was in this thicket that the detective heard the crackling sound.

He dropped to the earth as silently as falls the snowflake, and, crouching on his hands and knees, he held his ready cocked revolver to defend himself if it became necessary. There could be no mistake about the matter, some one was in the thicket.

After a few moments the faint rustling of bushes came to his ears. Some man or beast was within that thicket, and from the caution exercised, he satisfied himself that it was a man.

Tramp, tramp, tramp, very faintly yet distinctly came the slow tread of feet, accompanied by the slight rustling of bushes, as of some one parting them with his hands.

There was a tall bunch of grass but a few feet away, and behind this the detective crept, crouching low to the ground, just so he could see around the tuft of grass.

A tall, powerful man, whose face was so completely concealed by a broad-brimmed hat as to render his features invisible, stepped from the thicket not ten paces from where the concealed man lay. He was attired in the usual frontier costume, and carried a rifle in his hand. The newcomer paused a moment to gaze about him.

"That infernal woman will ruin all yet," he growled in an undertone.

"What woman is he talking about?" thought Ned Todd. He kept his pistol ready aimed at the stranger's breast, and could at any moment have sent a bullet to his heart, but as yet he had no positive assurance that he was an enemy. Even if he was one of the banditti it would be better to watch him and see what he would do.

The stranger waited a few moments as if hesitating which way to go. Perhaps he was never in greater peril in his life. Had he discovered the man crouching upon the ground, and taken a single step toward him, it would have been his last. But after a few moments he turned off at a right angle, and made a circuit of the house.

"I will have to be careful. The woods are full of them," said Ned Todd.

He went carefully along the edge of the thicket, until he was in a position to get a view of the old corral where their horses had last been seen. But as he was about to emerge from the thicket, there came a low tap, tap, from the dark wood.

"That's a signal," thought the detective.

A moment later it was answered, not half a dozen paces away.

"Hist," said a low, cautious voice.

"Who's that?"

"Dyke."

Ned Todd was near enough to hear both. They met at a spot not ten paces away in full view of the concealed man.

"Boydston, where is cap?" asked the man who had called himself Dyke.

"Not fur."

"Have they escaped?"

"No."

"D they suspect us?"

"I guess not; the old house is as silent as the grave. When mornin' comes there'll either be two new mounds or two more bodies in the black hole."

"Have they much?"

"Nothing."

"Then why bother with 'em?"

There was a muttered expression, which the concealed man could not catch, and then he heard his own name pronounced.

"What? Is he here?"

"There haint a bit o' doubt o' it."

"Then we got to get rid o' him, and it will have to be managed in such a way that he does not drop on us. If he should we are gone."

They talked in an undertone for several moments, so that the detective from his place of concealment was unable to hear a word that they said. At last they moved off and disappeared in the darkness.

"Now to see if the horses are safe, and then to get back and warn Archie of our danger," said Ned Todd, as he began to cautiously make his way through the jungle of vines and grass.

He finally got near enough to the corral to discover that the horses were gone. He made the discovery with no little alarm. It was plainly evident now that the enemy had determined on securing their victims at all hazards. Todd wheeled about and started toward the house. Before he had taken a dozen steps in that direction, a voice said:

"Stop! surrender, or you are a dead man." At the same moment a pair of strong arms were thrown about him, and the cold muzzle of a pistol thrust against his temple.

CHAPTER VI.

A STRANGE DISCOVERY.

Alone in the dark attic attended only with sad reflections, Archie Holland patiently awaited the return of his companion. We all know how in times of great anxiety the moments seem ages. At such times the thoughts can conjure up a thousand fantastic dangers. Out of the darkness we seem to see monsters determined on our destruction.

Archie Holland was no coward, and when he felt these superstitious fears creeping on him he threw them off, and, starting to his feet, stood at the window looking upon the moonlit forest.

There were many things to occupy the mind of Archie Holland at this time. His father's mysterious disappearance, his supposed death, and the story of the man Frank Erwin, that he was still alive and a prisoner in Oklahoma. The mystery had a saddening effect on the youth, and he wondered if this strange rendezvous, Oklahoma Peg, and Captain Snell, could have any connection whatever with his missing father.

It was but natural that his mind should take in the tragedy of the day. He wondered why the man Miller was traveling alone with his daughter through the wilderness, and where was the young lady whom he had sworn to rescue? A slight noise on the ground below at this moment attracted his attention.

"What is that? A man's footsteps as I live," he said leaning forward and gazing out into the darkness, yet being careful not to bring himself in range of a bullet. A few moments' silence ensued, and again footsteps were heard.

"Whist," came from below.

"All right," some one answered in a whisper. "It's not all right," thought the youth, cocking his pistol and holding it in his hand. There were two dark forms below, and he knew that neither was the border detective. They must be enemies.

Archie dropped on one knee close by the window and listened.

"Are they here yet?" a voice asked in a whisper.

"Bagged as neat as you please," was the answer.

"Where are the others?"

"Coming."

The youth appreciated the fact that his position was becoming every moment more critical. He must get out of this place, or he would soon be surrounded by enemies and his escape impossible.

"Are ye sure it's Todd?" a voice from below asked.

"Hush, don't make so much noise. You'll be heard."

"Oh, they're asleep."

"May be not."

"Of course they are," said the man, who was evidently the more careless of the two. "If they'd been awake we'd a bad shot from 'em before this time."

They were standing beneath the very tree by which Ned Todd had descended. Archie could have hit either with his pistol, but how many more of the banditti were near, waiting for him, he had no means of knowing, and dared not begin the fight while his companion was away.

The two men were in view but a moment, and then they disappeared around the house.

"There is no need for me to stay here until I am caught like a rat in a trap," thought Archie as they disappeared. "I had better try to escape, and run my chances of finding Major Todd."

He opened the door, and with a cocked revolver in his hand, crept down the narrow, crooked stairway. In spite of all his caution the stairway would creak. It was very dark, and he once or twice came near stumbling, but with very little confusion, regained his equilibrium. All this trouble, however, prolonged the time.

When half way down he halted, for he was certain he heard a door open in some part of the house. In his imagination he could see the dark assassins, like Macbeth, creeping upon their intended victims. For a few moments he waited in the narrow stairway, pistol in hand. He thought he saw a dark robed form glide across the open space revealed by the cracks in the door at the foot of the stairs. But a brief investigation convinced him that it was only his imagination.

Nevertheless stealthy footsteps could be heard in different parts of the house, and the air was filled with strange whispers and murmurs.

"There is some mischief brewing," said the youth, as he reached the door of the front room. A few smoldering embers were in the fireplace, giving forth a dull glow of light, through the pale gray ashes that covered them. Through the gloom of the dark room the form of the cripple could be seen lying on his sheepskin rug, evidently asleep.

Archie tried the front door, but it was securely locked and bolted.

"I must get out of here some way," he thought. Then he remembered the window. But when he reached it, he made a discovery that was new to him. The sashes of the window were of iron, instead of painted wood as he had at first supposed. The youth was about to try the front door again, when the sound of voices came to his ears.

"Some one is out there, that won't do," he thought.

"No, no, no," muttered the idiot cripple, rolling over on the rug and kicking and giggling in half suppressed glee.

"That fellow is awake," said the youth to himself. "Had I not better appeal to him?" But at that moment the idiot began snoring so loudly that Archie concluded that after all he must be asleep.

He groped his way across the room, and reached the door, which he found unlocked and opened. But it only led to another apartment, if possible even more dark than the other.

"This is certainly the dining-room," he thought. After groping about a little more he was convinced of the fact.

Voces could be heard in some passage, closet, or adjoining apartment. They were not very loud, but every word could be distinctly heard.

"It's time they were all here now," said one, "there is no need o' waitin' any longer. Let's go up and knock 'em on the head."

"No, wait for Cap."

"Cap, thunder! he's too slow! When I've got work to do, I want it done and over with!"

"But we'd better be a little careful in this case."

"Why?"

"Them fellers are perfect tigers. Cap an' some of the boys hev been shooting at 'em all day, but could neither hit 'em or drive 'em out o' the country. They say' one o' them is Major Todd, the border detective."

"Oh thunderation, he can't be here!"

"Cap says he is."

"Then we will need all the band."

"Guess we'd better go a little keerful."

"Let's go where we kin see somethin'."

They had been talking in low, earnest tones yet so as to be heard by Archie, but now began to move away. The creaking of boards could be heard by which Archie knew that they were getting farther and farther away. It now occurred to him that he could possibly effect his escape by following the men. He began groping his way around the apartment, and at last reached the door.

He tried it, and found it also unlocked.

Good fortune seemed favoring him. Again on the air there came to his ears the subdued sound of human voices.

If he would save his life he must act immediately. He boldly opened the door, and passed into another room.

"Yes, yes, come on," said a voice from without.

At this moment the distant report of a pistol came on the air.

"There! trouble has begun," said some one.

"Ned Todd is in danger, I've not a moment to lose," thought Archie.

With the intention of running to the rescue of his companion, he started to the next door in order to get out of the house, but, when he was only half way over, the floor suddenly gave way beneath him, and he fell down, down, alighting with a thump, that almost took the breath out of his body, on the ground at the foot of the stairs of a cellar or dungeon. The

fall was eight or nine feet and Archie was almost stunned by it. He had one of his pistols ready cocked in his hand and it was discharged by the fall, the flash momentarily lighting the dungeon-like apartment in which he lay.

The first thing that Archie did was to assure himself that he was not hurt. It was so intensely dark after the flash of his pistol that he could see nothing, but he immediately heard a rustling sound as of some one moving near him.

"Who is there?" he demanded, recocking his revolver.

No voice answered, but there was another and still more perceptible movement.

"Speak out or I will fire," said the youth.

A piteous groan came to his ears, half smothered, as if it were uttered with great difficulty.

Thrusting his fingers into his vest pocket, he drew out a match which he struck. It flared up, lighting the gloomy dungeon.

No wonder Archie Holland started back with an exclamation of horror and wonder. Before him seated on a stone, bound hand and foot, was a young girl. A handkerchief was drawn across her mouth so tightly she could not speak.

Archie hastened to her side, and holding his pistol between his knees cut the bonds that bound the captive.

"You are free," he said in a whisper.

"Thanks," came in a faint response.

"What is your name?" he asked.

"Daisy Miller," was the answer.

"Was your father killed to-day?"

"Yes, sir," and he could hear her sobbing faintly.

"Do not weep, I will defend you; I will defend you with my life," the youth answered.

At this moment voices were heard from above, and the rays of a lantern could be seen streaming down the open trap door.

"Get behind me, Miss Miller," said Archie Holland, leveling his pistol at the opening, through which the light was streaming.

Don't wait until morning to subscribe to "Comfort" and get the next installment of this fascinating story in the next issue. If your subscription is about to expire or you are anxious to become a reader of "Comfort," now is the best time as these interesting serial detective stories will be a distinct feature in addition to all the many interesting departments, and you will not want to miss a single copy. But all subscriptions must be paid in advance, so we call your attention to the opportunity of obtaining a renewal at the present 25c. rate by paying 10c. in advance for a six months' subscription. We shall add other features to "Comfort," continue serials after the ending of the "Ned Todd" story, and give you the biggest and best home monthly that is published. Fill out and send 10c. coupon now, (see coupon on page 12) so you will not miss a single chapter.

Perhaps you have a friend whom you can induce to subscribe to "Comfort;" if so, see our special premiums offered for one new yearly subscriber.

I Can Sell Your Farm
or other real estate for cash, no matter where located. Send description and selling price and learn my wonderfully successful plan. **W. M. OSTRANDER,** North American Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

TWO RINGS FREE!
Send 20 Miners Lamp Tickets
at 5 cents each, to Fredrickson,
111 W. 14th Street, New York City.
Send us 30 days; when sold
send money and we send 2 rings or choice
from big list premium. **MINERAL WICK CO., Franklin, N.Y.**

MADE \$105 THE FIRST MONTH
written FRED. BLODGETT, of N. Y. J. L. PARKER
of La., writes: "I am making \$105 to day
I work 1 hour." **MINER WICK CO.,** of New York
writes: "I made \$50 to \$100 daily
Hundreds doing likewise. We can
make tableware, bicycles, metal goods
gold, silver, nickel, etc. **MINER WICK CO.,** of New York
Write for free. **G. Gray & Co., Plating Works, Miami Ridge, Franklin, N.Y.**

NO SPAVINS

The worst possible spavin can be cured in 15 minutes. Ringbones, Carbs and Spavins just as quick. Not painful and never has failed. Detailed information about this new method sent free to horse owners. Write today. Ask for pamphlet No. 11. **Fleming Bros., Chemists, Union Stock Yards, Chicago.**

\$3.75 BUYS A \$35 WATCH
and a handsome "Gold" watch chain & chain
THIS IS A GENUINE GOLD FILLED WATCH
in hunting case, stem wind and engraved. **HIGH GRADE RUBY EVIDED WATCH**
which is absolutely guaranteed by **25 YEARS.**
Send this to us and we will send the
watch & chain C. O. D. \$3.75 and express
charges paid. If you are not satisfied
as represented, we will refund your money
if you return it to us. **DR. W. O. COFFEE,** 843 Good Block, Des Moines, Iowa.

WEAK EYES MADE STRONG
Sight Restored at Small Expense

Dr.



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

The first month of spring, and the winter is going slowly from before the sun, and the flowers that it brings forth. May it be spring-time in your hearts always, and it will be, if you will try to make it so. But there is work to do in the spring and let us get at it.

The first is from Cousin Maud in Trinity county, Texas, and she asks me questions that her physician can best answer. I get a good many questions of this kind, but health is too valuable for me to tamper with, and I have no advice except to consult your physician who knows your needs best.

Flo, Walnut Creek, O.—If the young man you love wants to make up the quarrel, give him the chance and let the other one go.

S. E. A., Tippecanoe, Ohio.—Yes. (2) Girls of seventeen might have one caller a week, but it is rather young for beaus. (3) If the young man really loves you he will not go with another girl for spite. Throw him over.

Clover Blossom, Colfax, Indiana.—Take the young man back, but before you do, tell him what you have heard, and have a perfect understanding with each other.

College Chums, West Sunbury, Pa.—Country parties usually last until very late hours, but they should not continue beyond one o'clock, unless it is something out of the ordinary; and midnight is plenty late enough for most. (2) No kissing games. (3) Dances at private houses are permissible, and it is proper to go to public dances with a chaperone.

Stella, Altoona, Pa.—If you told him you loved him, that was the proper answer, no matter whether you said it gracefully or not. (2) Yes. (3) The lady does as she pleases about taking the man's arm. (4) You may go to his house if his mother or sisters are there.

Diamond, Orange Vale, Cal.—A girl of fifteen is too young to have men's company, therefore your other questions are answered in the negative.

Violet, New York, N. Y.—Don't say anything about loving the young man until he tells you he loves you. (2) The love of a girl of nineteen is not as likely to be childish as that of a man of twenty-one. She is much older than he is. (3) I am not sure. (4) The only way to show your disapproval of a man swearing before you is to tell it to him, and request that he do not offend again. If he does, don't let him talk to you any more.

Blue Eyes, Horton's Summit, Va.—The member of Congress from your district. Address: Superintendent, Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. (2) Call for the things you want in the order in which they appear on the bill of fare. (3) There is no rule about registering at a hotel. You simply walk up to the counter and tell the clerk you want a room. Ask him what the price will be. He will do the rest.

Mildred, Cross Timbers, Texas.—Treat the young man, who will never marry, but comes to see you, just as you would any other friend, and don't think of loving him any more than you do all of the others you know. In the meantime he will come around, or you will find some one to take his place.

Sweet Sixteen, Port Jervis, N. Y.—No. (2) Ordinarily, yes. (3) If you know the young man to be all right, you can accept his attentions, but you should by all means let your parents know that you have. (4) Most emphatically, yes.

Peach, Lake Crystal, Minn.—Your conundrums are too hard for me.

Primrose, Columbus, Mont.—Engagement ring on third finger of left hand. An opal is said to be unlucky. A solitaire diamond is the rule for an engagement ring. It need not be large.

M. E. B., Madison, Wis.—A photograph is often a Christmas present.

Iantha, Bellevue, Kans.—Thirty is a very suitable age for eighteen. (2) The lady leads the way into her own church. (3) The opera is quite correct. (4) A man should not call oftener than once a week or two weeks unless he is "courting," and he should leave at 10:30, or earlier. No kissing. (5) Yes, a man should stop chewing tobacco to please his sweetheart as well as for a hundred other reasons.

Black Eyes, Raleigh, N. C.—Don't marry the old widow whom you do not love. (2) Flirting is next of kin to lying, and is quite as unworthy of a man or a woman. (3) I think you are a frivolous and foolish girl who had better not marry for a long time yet, for as you now think, you will not be a good wife, and may be a very bad one.

Winifred, Scranton, Pa.—If you are quite sure of yourself, there can be no harm in visiting your friend, whatever gossips may say of you and her son.

Blue Eyes, Charlottesville, Va.—You are too young to be asking questions about beaus. Turn your attention to your studies for five years yet.

Punch, Greensboro, N. C.—It is proper to shake hands when introduced. You may ask your escort into the house if it is not too late. The lady should speak first.

White Rose, Stonewall, N. C.—Don't use a toothpick at table. (2) There is no harm in dancing. Many of the churches do not object to it. (3) Sixteen is too young for beaus.

Omaha, Omaha, Neb.—I think I would not wear the long wedding veil. (2) You will have to settle the other matters between yourselves.

May, Eros, Ark.—Why do you wish to give him up if he is such an excellent man? You may go further and fare worse.

Little Ted, Amherst, Va.—Before marrying your cousin, it will be well for you to find out if it is not a penitentiary offence.

Twin Sisters, Moultrie, O.—Wait till he sends his address. (2) Yes. (3) Say "thank you." (4) Wait till he asks for it, unless you want him to have it. (5) No.

P. S., Paducah, Ky.—Being a Kentucky girl you ought to know the answers to the questions you ask me.

Three Girls, Burnside, Mich.—Don't dance with men you do not know. (2) Better keep your photographs. (3) Until they know each other very well. (4) An engaged girl may accept another escort if her fiance if he has no objection.

Brown Eyes, Pima, Ariz.—Tell the young man you do not wish him to come to your house so often as it provokes remark. (2) No. (3) Name the little girl Fairfax, or Phyllis, or Ruth, or Bruce, or some other name that can not have an "ie," added to it. (4) No. (5) Too much novel reading is bad, but a little is very good.

Louise, St. Paul, Minn.—Certainly not.

Housekeeper, Bristol, Conn.—I think if you had a talk with the young man in a friendly way and settled your difficulties, it would be pleasanter for all concerned. Or you might write him a note to the same purport. (2) If you find it pleasant at the dances given by the Catholic young men, I see no harm in going. If churches can't be friendly there is nothing in religion.

Minerva, Cedar Rapids, Neb.—Evidently he has not received your invitation. In any event don't

give him another thought until you hear from him.

Mary, Altheimer, Ark.—A girl should have only one "beau," meaning by that her "best young man." She may accept the attention of a dozen or more in a general way. (2) The lady pays her own train fare unless she is the man's invited guest.

Violet, Pontotoc, Miss.—Don't doubt the young man. Settle your doubts by frankly telling them to him and asking him to clear them up. There may always be times of doubt, but they can be cleared away by frankness.

Brown Eyed Beauty, Ironton, Mo.—Hypnotism is neither medicine nor electricity, and it is something that you should not tamper with. It is dangerous in the hands of inexperienced persons. (2) The pompadour style of hair came from Madame Pompadour of France. (3) Don't scrape your feet on the sidewalk. It is slovenly, and in some places is used as a sign to attract disagreeable attention.

Blue Bell, Redwood, Tenn.—Send your escort home if he shows signs of wanting to stay too long. (2) Thank him and say you will be very glad to go. (3) The man usually opens and closes the door. (4) In a strange church the man leads the way. (5) I have not space to give you anything about Japanese customs.

There, my dears, all of your questions are answered, except a few that have been answered many times, or were not worth the trouble, and I hope they will be of interest and profit to you, and to other people as well. By by. COUSIN MARION.

A WOMAN'S DISCOVERY.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any of the diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc. I will gladly mail a free box of the remedy to every sufferer. Address

MRS. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

LADIES PIN MONEY, FLAVORS, PERFUMES, CREDIT, AGT. TERMS FREE.

LADIES TO DO PLAIN NEEDLEWORK for us at home. We furnish materials and pay \$7 to \$10 per week. Send stamped envelope to STANDARD CO., Indiana Ave., Chicago, Ill.

JUST TO ADVERTISE our new Novelty Knot Ring, made of our new gold wire with initial or year Joe with size and catalogues. GREELEY JEWELRY CO., PORTLAND, ME.

GREIDER'S FINE CATALOGUE of prize winning poultry for 1902, printed in colors, illustrates and describes 50 Varieties of Poultry; gives reasonable prices of eggs and stock. Many hints to poultry raisers. Send 10c in silver or stamps for this noted book. B. H. GREIDER, RHEEMS, PA.

WANTED RELIABLE MEN in every locality throughout the United States to introduce our goods, taking up show cards on trees, fences, along roads, and all conspicuous places, also distributing small advertising matter. Commission or salary \$60.00 per month and expenses not to exceed \$2.50 per day. Steady employment to good honest reliable men. No experience needed. Write for full particulars. EMPIRE MEDICINE CO., London, Ontario, Canada.

MORPHINE store the nervous and physical systems.

A Trial Treatment Free.

To every lady who sells 10 cans of our Baking Powder, etc., (on our Plan No. 1) giving free to each purchaser a beautiful Glass Pitcher and six glasses to match, we give this 44-pc. handsomely decorated Tea Set, full size for table use, free. No money required in advance. Simply send your name & address & we will send you our plan, order blank, etc. We will allow you time to deliver the Baking Powder, & collect the money before paying us. You run no risk as we pay the freight, & will trust you with the Baking Powder & Dishes, etc. We also give away 112 Piece Dinner Sets, Dress Skirts, Couches, Furniture, etc., for selling our goods. Address KING MFG. CO., 623 King Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.

ICURE FITS

When I say I cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office.

Prof. W.H. PEEKE, F.D., 4 Cedar St., N.Y.



Ladies Wanted

To sell our Handsome Petticoats and Rainy Day Skirts.

Excellent territory given. Our agents are earning independent livings. Write us for catalogues and particulars.

Paris Skirt Co., 140 Viaduct, Cleveland, O.

Big Money

Made or saved. Print your own cards, &c., with a \$5 Press. Larger size for circulat, books, newspapers, \$12. Type setting easy, printed rules. Send stamp for samples catalogue of presses, type, paper, &c., to factory.

The Press Co., Meriden, Conn.

"Goo Goo."

The popular "Goo Goo" Winking Eye is what you must wear on your coat or vest if you want to cut out all the other fellows and smash the pretty girls. You can engage in conversation and slyly turn back your coat lapel and wink your "Goo Goo" eye so easily you will win the girl and fool the other fellow or if a friend is telling a funny story that is old and stale or not just true, you can bring your winking eye into play

A NOTTY WINK.

and turn him down without any hard feeling. The eye is strongly made of metal, the front is painted in natural life-like colors and the wink is produced by pulling an invisible string from behind and there is a long strong pin to fasten through your clothing. The whole thing is strong and durable and the most talked about novelty today. Every one is wild for one, every young man in the big cities has one and all the girls too. "Just because she made Goo Goo eyes" is why you should have one, so send 12c. today for a special sample. 6 for 50c.; 1 doz., \$1.00. Agents make big money. Address LANE & CO., Dept. C, Augusta, Maine.

PAINLESS and PERMANENT HOME CURE

A Trial Treatment Free.

Sent to anyone addicted to the use of Morphine, Opium or other drug habit. Contains Vital Principle heretofore unknown and lacking in all others. We re

move the cause. Confidential correspondence invited from all.

ST. PAUL ASSOCIATION, 48 Van Buren St., Chicago, Ill.

This 44 Pcs. TEA SET FREE

To every lady who sells 10 cans of our Baking Powder, etc., (on our Plan No. 1) giving free to each purchaser a beautiful Glass Pitcher and six glasses to match, we give this 44-pc. handsomely decorated Tea Set, full size for table use, free. No money required in advance. Simply send your name & address & we will send you our plan, order blank, etc. We will allow you time to deliver the Baking Powder, & collect the money before paying us. You run no risk as we pay the freight, & will trust you with the Baking Powder & Dishes, etc. We also give away 112 Piece Dinner Sets, Dress Skirts, Couches, Furniture, etc., for selling our goods. Address KING MFG. CO., 623 King Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.

HANDSOME WATCH FREE

A Solid Gold Ladies' or Gents' watch costs from \$25 to \$50. Don't throw your money away. If you want a watch that will

equal for time any Solid Gold Watch made, send us your name and address at once and agree to sell only 8 boxes of our famous Vegetable Pills at 25 cents a box. It's the greatest remedy on earth for Constipation, Indigestion and all Stomach Disorders, and they sell like hot cakes. Don't miss the chance of your life. Send us your order and we will send the 8 boxes by mail. When sold, you send us the money and we will send you the WATCH with

A GUARANTEE FOR 20 YEARS

the same day money is received. There is no humbuggery about this. We are giving away these watches to quickly introduce our Remedy—and all we ask is that when you receive the watch you will show it to your friends. Hundreds have received watches from us and are more than delighted with them. This is a glorious opportunity to get a fine watch without paying a cent for it, and you should write at once. Address

AMERICAN MEDICINE CO., Dept. 5K 47 Warren St., New York City.



The People's Poet.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE poems of Ella Wheeler Wilcox may not reach the highest degree of literary and poetic perfection, but they are strong in human sympathy, and they appeal to the great mass of the common people. They are often of the kind that men cut out and tuck away in their vest pockets, and that children speak in school. Some of them have been set to music, and people like to sing them. They appeal to the heart, and they often voice great

truths. They are more widely copied than the poems of any other woman writer in America. It is doubtful if any poem of recent years written by an American poet has been more widely copied than Ella Wheeler Wilcox's poem entitled "Solitude," which begins with—

"Laugh, and the world laughs with you;
Weep, and you weep alone,
For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth,
But has trouble enough of its own.
Sing, and the hills will answer;
Sigh, and it is lost on the air;
The echoes bound to a joyful sound,
But shrink from voicing care."

Ella Wheeler Wilcox came "out from the West." She was born in Johnstown, Wisconsin, about forty years ago, and all of the years of her childhood and young womanhood were spent in the West. She began to write at a very early age, and from the first her work was popular. The first poem for which she ever received payment appeared in one of the Leslie publications, and then she began to write for several eastern family periodicals. It was not until 1883 that she wrote "Solitude," a poem that brought her more prominently before the public than anything she had written up to that time. The poem was first published in the New York Sun, and its author was paid the munificent sum of five hundred dollars for it. The poem was suggested to Ella Wheeler while she was visiting a friend in Madison, Wisconsin. This friend had suffered a great bereavement, and it was while dressing for a ball that Ella Wheeler thought of how quickly one turns from sorrow to sunshine, and the poem was the result.

Another almost equally popular poem, containing but two stanzas, is the one entitled "Take Courage." It is the poem with which William J. Bryan concludes his book and it voices a truth that no one can deny.

"Let those who have failed to take courage,
Though the enemy seemed to have won,
Though his ranks are strong, if he be in the wrong,
The battle is not yet done;

For, sure as the morning follows
The darkest hour of the night,

No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right.

O man, bowed down with labor,
O woman, young yet old,
O heart, oppressed in the toiler's breast
And crushed by the power of gold;

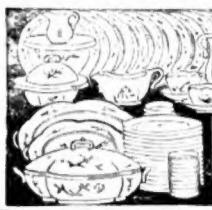
Against triumphant might,
No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right."

Mrs. Wilcox's "Poems of Passion," published about twenty years ago, created a good deal of discussion, but they are not the poems that made her reputation or that her friends care for most. One of her favorite poems is "My Creed." It is a creed to which all can subscribe and it would be well if we could all live the truths contained in its brief and simple lines which are as follows:

"Who giveth love to all,
Pays kindness for unkindness, smiles for frowns,
And lends new courage to each fainting heart,
And strengthens hope and scatters joy abroad,
He, too, is a redeemer—son of God."

Ella Wheeler was married sixteen years ago to Robert M. Wilcox, a prosperous business man of Meriden, Connecticut, and her home since her marriage has been in New York excepting during the summer and fall months when she lives in a charming home of her own at Short Beach, Connecticut. She is a firm believer in the gospel of cheerfulness and one does not find morbid notes in her songs. She believes also in the still higher gospel of healthfulness, and nothing gives her greater pleasure than to know that she has sent forth a poem that has been helpful to some one. She has many letters received from those to whom her poems have been helpful by inspiring them with strength to fight the battle of life.

FITS Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for **FREE**, \$2.00 trial bottle and treatise. DR. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 931 E Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.



Powder, giving free glass pattern (like picture). To the lady who sells 15 pound cans Queen Baking latest cut glass pattern (like picture). To the lady who sells 15 pound cans Queen Baking Dinner Set, full-sized tableware, handsomely decorated and gold-trimmed. We also give Waists, Skirts, Jackets, etc., and premiums you select, pay freight and allow you time to deliver the goods and collect for them before paying us. **AMERICAN SUPPLY CO.**, 806 North Main Street, Department 57, St. Louis, Mo.

FREE CHINA DINNER SET

FOR A FEW HOURS' WORK SELLING QUEEN BAKING POWDER Our inducements are enormous. To every purchaser of a



Dinner Set, full-sized tableware, handsomely decorated and gold-trimmed. We also give Waists, Skirts, Jackets, etc., and premiums you select, pay freight and allow you time to deliver the goods and collect for them before paying us. **AMERICAN SUPPLY CO.**, 806 North Main Street, Department 57, St. Louis, Mo.

In this issue you will find Mr. W. M. Ostrander's advertisement, which will surely interest you if you contemplate buying or selling a farm or other property.

Brimstone is a corruption of *byrnstone*, Anglo-Saxon for burning-stone.

To Get a Beautiful Ring Free.

Return this notice and we will send you one of our Solid Gold-laid, Stone-set Rings Free. The Stones are exact imitations of Ruby, Sapphire, Emerald, Amethyst, etc., and so perfect that an expert can hardly tell the difference. Persons not in possession of one of these rings will not be entitled to any of these rings. Be sure to return this notice with three 2-cent stamps to pay for postage and packing.

SAFE JEWEL CO., 19 Warren St., New York.

A REMARKABLE ENDORSEMENT
Of the Unequalled Qualities of the CORNISH PIANO

BY
The Hon. HORACE N. ALLEN,
United States Minister to Korea.

Mr. Allen who represents the United States at Seoul, Korea, purchased a Cornish piano in 1894. After an ocean voyage of some 15,000 miles, and usage for nearly eight years, subjected to the extreme heat and dampness of the Korean climate, writes as follows:

Legation of the United States of America, Seoul, Korea.

I wish to inform you of the satisfaction I have had from the Cornish Piano you sent me in 1894. It was a wise selection for this climate. It has stood the severe rainy seasons most remarkably. For four years my two boys practiced two hours daily upon it and for two years it has had a pianola attached to it and it has had to do steady service. During all this time it has only been tuned once owing to the absence of piano tuners. A tuning would not hurt it now, and yet it is not particularly out of tune. This record seems to surprise everyone, and I consider it worthy of mentioning it to you.

(Signed) **HORACE N. ALLEN, U. S. Minister.**

Korea, which is a semi-independent kingdom in the Far East, was the bone of contention in the China-Japanese War; it is nominally under the control of the Emperor of Japan, but England and Russia have important interests and maintain Free Trading Ports; it is about 15,000 miles away from the United States, and the climate is such that if Piano will stand seven years of its extremes of heat and dampness, it will stand anything.

NEW CURE FOR FITS

If you suffer from Epileptic Fits, Falling Sickness or St. Vitus' Dance, or have children or friends that do so, my New Discovery will CURE them, and all you are asked to do is to send for my FREE REMEDIES and try them. They have cured thousands where everything else failed. Sent absolutely free with complete directions, express prepaid. Please give AGE and full address.

DR. W. H. MAY,
94 Pine Street. New York City.

FREE RUPTURE CURE

If ruptured write to Dr. W. S. Rice, 1019 Main St., Adams, N. Y., and he will send free a trial of his wonderful method. Whether skeptical or not get this free method and try the remarkable invention that cures without pain, danger, operation or detention from work. Write to-day. Don't wait.

Farmers' Sons Wanted with knowledge of farm stock and fair education to work in an office; \$60 a month with advancement; steady employment; must be honest and reliable. Branch offices of the association are being established in each state. Apply at once, giving full particulars. **The Veterinary Science Association, London, Canada.**

WE GROW HAIR ON BALD HEADS

And to prove that we have the Greatest Hair Restorer on earth, we will send you a sample bottle of Hair Forcer and a bar of Scalp Soap absolutely free by mail on receipt of 2-cent stamp.

LORRIMAN & CO., Dept. 57 BALTIMORE, MD.

420 Quilt SOFA AND PIN CUSHION DESIGNS
many new quaint, queer and curious; includes lesson on Battenburg lace making and colored embroidery, with all stitches illustrated; also 100 crazy stitches, regular price 25c; to introduce will mail all the above for 10c.
LADIES' ART CO., Box 5 C, St. Louis, Mo.

EASY HOME For Ladies. No canvassing; steady work guaranteed; prompt pay; free working-out. Send stamp. **Leavitt Mfg. Co.**, Leavitt St., Chicago.

HONEST MONEY EASILY MADE.

In the privacy of your own home. No canvassing. No deposit. **WESTERN M. S. CO.**, 40 Dearborn St., Chicago. Write today enclosing self-addressed stamped envelope

YOUNG WIDOW; no children; owns fine farm and other property; also \$10,000 cash; wants kind, reliable husband. **HART**, 47 Park-av., Chicago.

GOLD SILVER AND HIDDEN TREASURES CAN BE found by Hall's Magnetic Gold Detectors millions of wealth lying under your feet; buy the tool now; Address **P. & M. AGENCY**, PALMYRA, PA.

\$300 Genuine Conf. money for \$1. \$100 for 50c. R. MAXWELL, Box C, South Bend, Ind.

We Pay \$20 a week and expenses to advertise and introduce **Poultry Compound**, rig necessary. Send stamp. Royal Co-Op. Mfg. Co., Dept. CC, Indianapolis, Ind.

FREE SET-OF-REAL OSTRICH FEATHERS.

Ostrich Feathers. Ostrich feathers are the richest trimming known for hats, and are at present very stylish and sell from \$2 to \$10 apiece. We've imported for us the finest Ostrich Feathers, curled, full plume, glossy finish, with long quills, and we'll give them to those who will help to introduce our celebrated "Cascara" Pills, which are a sure cure for Headache, Constipation, Indigestion, Liver Troubles, etc.

SEND NO MONEY—only your name, and we will send you postpaid 10 boxes of "Cascara" Pills at 25 cents a box. When sold send us our money and we will

at once forward a set of beautiful **OSTRICH FEATHERS** absolutely FREE.

\$500 REWARD to any one who can prove that we do not give a set of Ostrich Feathers for selling only 6 boxes of our celebrated pills.

Send your name and post office address at once. **Union Drug & Supply Co.**, Dept. B, 100 Maiden Lane, New York.

\$1000 REWARD Will be paid to any person that can prove that we do not give absolutely free for selling **only Six** boxes of our wonderful Headache Tablets and without further expense or work, a **beautiful Gold plated Watch-Chain and Charm**, six double plated Tea Spoons, one Butter Knife and one Sugar Shell. Any one can easily earn a beautiful gold plated ladies' or gent's size, hunting case, stem wind and stem set Watch, also Dolls, Dishes and other valuable premiums by selling our Remedy. We want good agents and are willing to pay them liberally to introduce our goods. We have a reputation for honest dealing and to prove it any person that will sell **only Six** boxes of our Headache Tablets at 25c. per box, will receive a beautiful gold plated Watch-chain and Charm, six double plated Tea Spoons, one Butter Knife and one Sugar Shell. **Don't send a cent.** Order to-day and we send Tablets by mail. When send us the money and we will give you prompt shipment of all premiums. Remember, **Union J. SHEPARD, Sup't.** Watch Dept. 402, New Haven, Conn.

REGISTERED IN U. S. PATENT OFFICE.

Will be paid to any person that can prove that we do not give absolutely free for selling **only Six** boxes of our wonderful Headache Tablets and without

further expense or work, a **beautiful Gold plated Watch-Chain and Charm**, six double plated Tea Spoons, one Butter

Knife and one Sugar Shell. Any one can easily earn a beautiful gold plated ladies' or gent's size, hunting case, stem wind

and stem set Watch, also Dolls, Dishes and other valuable

premiums by selling our Remedy. We want good agents and are

willing to pay them liberally to introduce our goods. We have a

reputation for honest dealing and to prove it any person that will

sell **only Six** boxes of our Headache Tablets at 25c. per box, will

receive a beautiful gold plated Watch-chain and Charm, six double

plated Tea Spoons, one Butter Knife and one Sugar Shell. **Don't**

send a cent. Order to-day and we send Tablets by mail. When

send us the money and we will give you prompt shipment of all

premiums. Remember, **Union J. SHEPARD, Sup't.** Watch Dept. 402, New Haven, Conn.

FREE CHINA DINNER SET

FOR A FEW HOURS' WORK SELLING QUEEN BAKING POWDER Our inducements are enormous. To every purchaser of a



latest cut glass pattern (like picture). To the lady who sells 15 pound cans Queen Baking Dinner Set, full-sized tableware, handsomely decorated and gold-trimmed. We also give Waists, Skirts, Jackets, etc., and premiums you select, pay freight and allow you time to deliver the goods and collect for them before paying us. **AMERICAN SUPPLY CO.**, 806 North Main Street, Department 57, St. Louis, Mo.

WRITERS WANTED to do copying at home. ART INSTITUTE, Lima, Ohio.

A PAYING PROFESSION Can be learned in ten days. Become independent. Be your own boss. Particulars free. PROF. S. A. WELTMER, Nevada, Mo.

This offer is, without the least doubt, the greatest value ever offered by any newspaper in the whole history of journalism.

* FULL SIZE *

Club

* GOOD PAPER *

SHEET MUSIC

Gifts

* LARGE TYPE *

We have made arrangements with one of the largest music houses of Boston to furnish our readers with ten pieces, full size, complete and unabridged Sheet Music for Club of One. The quality of this sheet music is the very best. The composers' names are household words all over the continent. None but high-priced copyright pieces or the most popular reprints. It is printed on regular sheet-music paper, from new plates made from large, clear type—including colored titles—and is in every way first-class, and worthy of your home. 3,000,000 copies sold!

LIST OF THE PIECES OFFERED AT THIS TIME.

No. VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.

313 Alda Transcription Falk

317 All for Thee Waltzes Waldteufel

165 American Liberty March Cook

323 Am Vogelherd, op. 364 Spindler

101 Ancients Abroad, March—Two Step Cook

319 Angel's Dream, Op. 36 Lange

247 Artist's Life Waltzes Strauss

181 Auld Lang Syne, Variations Durkee

337 Bagatelle Polka Waldteufel

329 Ballade, Four Hands Loeschhorn

347 Barcarolle Rubinsteini

215 Battle of Waterloo, Descriptive Anderson

179 Beauties of Paradise Waltz, 4 hands Streabog

227 Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes Strauss

232 Black Hawk Waltzes Walsh

331 Blooming Rose Polka Keifer

251 Blue Bells of Scotland, Trans. Richards

251 Bluedot e. Echo Polka Morrison

199 Boston Cosmopolitan March Carter

109 Bridal March from Lohengrin Wagner

221 Brunette Waltz Brang



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE New Moon occurs this month at about 42 minutes past 8 o'clock in the morning of the 8th day, Washington Mean Time. This new moon is an ecliptic conjunction though only a small fraction of the Sun's face will be eclipsed and it will not be visible in the United States. At the time of the eclipse nearly all the heavenly bodies will be above the earth, Neptune being the only one below the horizon and he in the Ascending house of the figure. The eclipse falls in the 18th degree of the sign Aries, only three degrees away from Mars.

Herschel is very near the western horizon in the 7th house; Saturn is in the 8th, Jupiter in the 9th, Venus near the meridian in the 10th, while Mercury is on the cusp of the 11th house in which are found the conjoined luminaries and Mars.

Happily for our country, Mercury ruler of the scheme and the benevolent planets are the highest elevated ones in the figure and continue the good promises for us as a nation. Mars so near the Sun and Moon detracts somewhat from the measure of our good, giving indication of some degree of antagonism between the President and Congress, reflecting opposition to either measures or methods of the Chief Executive. There will be bitter debates and unpleasant criticism of the Administration in Congress, and Saturn in the 8th tends to show either friction in the Cabinet or some change in that official family.

A Total Eclipse of the Moon occurs at about 42 minutes of 1 o'clock in the afternoon of the 22nd of the month. This eclipse is not visible in the United States but will be observed quite generally throughout Europe, Asia and Africa, either at its beginning or end. A figure erected for the time of the eclipse at our seat of government in Washington shows the opposing luminaries and Mercury, ruler of the scheme, each afflicted by the fiery Mars, he being close to the Sun and Mercury near the 9th cusp. The eclipsed Moon is in the 3rd house and all four of these heavenly bodies are adversely affected by the great malefic Saturn in the 5th house. Jupiter is in the 6th and Venus is in the 7th house.

The effects of both these eclipses will be principally apparent in Europe, Asia and Africa rather than directly in this country, though we shall not wholly escape some of the effects. It is apprehended there will be some unusual disturbance in the religious world, either through marked changes among church authorities or as to methods. Some unusual criticism or unpopularity of our Chief Executive will be apparent as to church matters. The combination also indicates some very serious disaster upon the seas, involving loss of many lives, and the unusual activity of Mars cautions us not to relax our vigilance in combating bad eruptive diseases, especially in schools and hotels. Mars, the fomenter of strife, also incites men to riotous acts and disorder, and we shall probably witness considerable excitement in some sections of the country in adjusting wages and disputes or differences between capital and labor. We trust this indication of the scheme may not be verified by any serious disorder, as the harm would be most injurious to the wives and children of those concerned, since Saturn afflicts from the 5th house.

Mars so closely afflicting the Sun in both eclipses indicates unusual excitement to the President and the governing authorities in our country generally, and the Chief Executive will not be wise to ignore safeguards from harm from viciously disposed persons. It cannot be denied that the eclipses exhibit some vicious features towards rulers across the seas, yet it is hoped that none of the evil machinations will prevail.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR APRIL, 1902.

APRIL 1—TUESDAY. The morning hours are contentious and fractious and invite moderation of all hasty impulses in social, domestic and business affairs; the time promotes combustion and fires, and explosions as the month opens will be quite likely. After the early part of the day conditions improve rapidly. See that the noon and early afternoon hours are given the preference for all the major moves of the day; especially should literary enterprises be diligently pushed and mental labors will be remarkably successful and satisfactory. Crowd all commercial contracts, urge correspondence and adjustment of accounts; make written agreements, encourage educational matters, and begin mathematical and scientific labors of magnitude.

2—WEDNESDAY. The morning gives baffling conditions such as arrests or hindrance in matters of consequence, particularly if connected with buildings or lands. After ten in the morning let every energy be put forth for prosecution of business, especially such as concerns machinery, chemistry, or any of the manufacturing enterprises of life.

3—THURSDAY. This is one of the best days of the month for beginning affairs of magnitude and importance. REGULUS advises his friends to improve the moments of this day to their fullest extent. It is especially recommended for the beginning of long journeys, milling operations, metal working, and the extensive manufacture, purchase or sale of machinery. If this be the anniversary of your birthday then these suggestions apply with even greater force and then mayest reckon with good assurance upon a season of unusual prosperity. Buy goods for trade, engage in new enterprises; deal with public officials, judges, counsellors, politicians and traders in wool and woollens. The day and time are particularly favorable for persons born about the 1st of February, 2nd of June, or 5th of October or December of past years, and such persons have in these passing weeks marked increase of friends, improved health and unexpected and more favorable business advantages and benefits, many making benevolent changes in business or removals.

4—FRIDAY. Continue thine efforts of yesterday with unabated energy, giving preference, if any, to business pertaining to the elegant and decorative in life; make personal applications for favor from public officials and governing officers of large organizations or corporations.

5—SATURDAY. A day of no special promise though somewhat conducive to rashness, peevishness and excitability; especially to persons born about the 9th of March, 11th of September or 6th of October, of past years. Let all such keep strong check upon all impulses of an aggressive or contentious character just at this time or serious controversies may result.

6—SUNDAY. Specially conducive to mental eccentricities and indulgences in the imaginative and marvelous in literature; the evening is the best part of the day, particularly for study and reflection and mental efforts of consequence.

7—MONDAY. Use the forenoon of this day for moves of importance in connection with houses or lands or as to mining enterprises; execute wills, appoint trustees, engage with printers and urge all literary labors and general correspondence; buy goods for trade in the afternoon, when also make applications for financial advantages or favor from persons of wealth or prominence in banking circles.

8—TUESDAY. Partial Eclipse of the Sun. Keep thy tongue under restraint during the better part of this day, nor be rash in decision in business engagements; quarrels are easily provoked and violence will abound. It is

no time to begin any important undertaking. Seek favor from persons noted for eccentricity of dress or habits.

9—WEDNESDAY. Let the musician and artist vigorously improve this day; choose the time for decorating buildings and dealing in decorative wares of all kinds; have no business transactions with money lenders or persons connected with patents.

10—THURSDAY. Shun correspondence in the opening hours of this day when correspondence relating to money matters is likely to prove unfortunate and annoying; use the afternoon for business connected with real estate or in reference to the property of deceased persons.

11—FRIDAY. Begin the day early and urge all undertakings of a scientific, literary or artistic nature and press all general business; the afternoon is less to be depended upon for any of the polite avocations or musical or dramatical engagements.

12—SATURDAY. A very excellent day; use the forenoon for replenishing thy stock in trade and for dealing with bankers, chemists, manufacturers, carpenters, machinists, surgeons, dentists and engineers, also for seeking promotion in the public service.

13—SUNDAY. A day in which the musical portion of religious worship will be unusually happy and effective; conditions contribute special enjoyment of the elegant in literature and art and render courtesies between the sexes particularly agreeable.

14—MONDAY. The forenoon is the best part of this day and should be given preference for matters of most consequence; as the day advances, however, a malevolent train of influences will prevail when no important beginning should be made; give thy landlord a wide berth nor have anything to do with real estate matters or with persons in the dirty or laborious avocations; the late hours are particularly evil and much violence and crime are induced, when also fires are to be carefully guarded against; make no application for favor or advantage from persons in authority during this day; let all persons have care against exposing themselves to danger in wells, mines, or other underground places, especially if born about the 17th of January, 15th of April, 18th of July, or 17th of October, of past years. Such persons should look carefully to their affairs, lest by their own recklessness or haste they invite litigation and experience misfortune and loss, or in some cases suffer violent hurts or diseases; such persons are now generally excitable, contentious and quarrelsome; they are admonished that patience and discretion would prove profitable allies in the present juncture of their affairs.

15—TUESDAY. Do not be in haste to begin thy duties on this day as baffling and disappointing conditions thwart success; the middle hours are the best ones and should be employed in preference to other parts of the day for the principal moves in life.

16—WEDNESDAY. Push correspondence in the early morning hours, but keep a sharp watch over the finances in the middle hours when losses of money or valuables are quite probable; beware of signing any promise to pay or of binding thyself as surely for another.

17—THURSDAY. Personal applications for favor from public authorities are more likely to succeed on this day than usual and the day is excellent as well for all the honorable undertakings of life, especially those concerned with great manufacturing enterprises.

18—FRIDAY. This day should be avoided for wooing or wedding, for conditions are decidedly treacherous and evil in this respect; many very strange and ill-assorted marriages are effected at this time, and disappointment, poverty and unhappiness will fall to the lot of the greater number who now assume the matrimonial yoke; ladies should not allow any alluring prospect of riches to influence them at this time to make any engagement of the above nature. This is especially true of ladies claiming as their birthday or if born about the middle of January, July, or October, of past years.

19—SATURDAY. The morning hours are the poorest but after nine in the forenoon matters concerned with building, excavating and construction should be vigorously pushed, when also dealings should be had with agriculturalists, mining concerns, plumbers, ship-builders and all classes of men engaged in the dirty and laborious avocations.

20—SUNDAY. One of the promising Sabbaths of the spring months, particularly conducive to the success of religious efforts and contributing physical vitality and buoyancy of spirit. Church matters are particularly favored.

21—MONDAY. Arise betimes and diligently urge thy several pursuits during the first two-thirds of this day, when conditions especially favor all dealings with persons of wealth and distinction, also all transactions with banks and monied institutions; use the afternoon for dealing with public men and officers of large corporations; mental labors in the night hours will be very laborious and generally unsatisfactory; indeed, the coming twenty-four hours have little to offer of a satisfactory character; some bad burglary and violence is probable during the night hours when fires prove fierce and destructive.

22—TUESDAY. Total Eclipse of the Moon. Avoid contention and do nothing hastily at this time; some bad fires and accidents now occur. Treachery and deceit are abroad, especially in the commercial and mercantile world, and REGULUS cautions close scrutiny of signatures to commercial paper and against a too ready belief in representations; both tongue and pen are tempted to exaggeration and unreliable utterances; thieves and forgers are active and the criminal classes are here excited to fresh deeds of violence and cruelty. Persons born as indicated in the paragraph for the 14th instant are again admonished to have care in all their affairs.

23—WEDNESDAY. Urge general business during the forenoon but look out for the pennies during the afternoon when extravagance is incited and unsatisfactory purchases are induced; the evening is fine for social engagements, or musical or dramatical entertainments.

24—THURSDAY. Take this day for all minor dealings with the laboring classes and transacting business with plumbers, tinsmiths, gardeners and builders; let persons born about the 20th of January, April, July or October of past years, if compelled to be employed in underground places or about chemicals and machinery, have particular care in these last days of April for avoidance of harm from fire, accident or explosion.

25—FRIDAY. The early part of the day is the best, though on the whole the day is but an indifferent one; some unusual mental and nervous unrest among mankind will be noted at these times by close observers and the classes engaged in great literary works will be observed to be suffering unusual misfortunes and some persons noted in literary circles are likely to succumb under prevailing adverse conditions.

26—SATURDAY. Use the early morning hours for minor purchases of goods for trade, though articles of dress or decoration are best left unbought; do not court or marry on this day, particularly if acquaintance of parties is short. Better wait a while.

27—SUNDAY. The afternoon is best; the mind will be remarkably active and pulpit utterances full of vigor and zeal; mental efforts in the evening will be effective and literary productions satisfactory.

28—MONDAY. Rise early and push all literary work and general correspondence with energy; seek favor at the hands of thine employer and crowd all honorable undertakings.

29—TUESDAY. Give preference to the forenoon for pursuit of the elegant occupations, dealings in fancy goods, jewelry and all articles that please and gratify mankind; have no dealings in houses or lands in the afternoon which is less promising of good than the early hours.

30—WEDNESDAY. The month closes with a very executable and unfortunate day; keep out of contentions, engage no servants, do not travel needlessly, and be sure to "make haste slowly" in thy respective avocations; beware of giving offence to thine employer.

EVERY LADY READ THIS.

I will send free a positive cure for all female diseases, irregularities, etc. A simple home treatment, a common sense remedy that never fails. FREE with valuable advice. MRS. L. D. HUDNUT, South Bend, Ind.

GET MARRIED 5000 LADIES are anxious to marry. Many very beautiful and wealthy. Big sealed list with full descriptions and P.O. addresses mailed free. Reliable. Union Cor. Club, 608 Austin Sta., Chicago

HEALTH FOR MOTHER AND CHILD.

No woman need longer dread the ill incident to motherhood; nor remain childless. Dr. J. H. Dye, 37 Lewis Block, Buffalo, N. Y., has devoted his life to curing the diseases of women. Write to him and he will inform you how to make childbirth safe, short and easy; the mother and child strong and healthy; also how to cure sterility.

FREE GOLD WATCH

This watch has American movement fully warranted to keep correct time. The case is Solid Gold Plated, equal in appearance to a Gold Plate Watch. Price \$2.00. You can get it FREE to Boys and Girls or anyone for nothing. Send your address and we will send the \$2 and we will positively send you the watch and chain.

ERIE MFG. CO., Dept. 22, Chicago

FREE TO WEAK MEN "CALTHOS"

Lends a Helping Hand
To All Sufferers From

Lost Manhood and Nervous Debility.

Sent Absolutely FREE To All
Sufferers, by Sealed Mail.

No C. O. D. or PRESCRIPTION SCHEME

Until further notice the well-known importers, Von Mohl Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio, will send free to all who apply enough of their famous specific, "Calthos," for Nervous and Sexual diseases to last five days. In many instances where the ailment has not advanced to an extreme stage, this is sufficient for a cure. This is no C.O.D., Fraud or Prescription Scheme. Send your name and address to-day and "Calthos" will reach you in a plain sealed package by return mail.

The American rights for "CALTHOS" are controlled solely by The Von Mohl Company, who introduced it into the United States.

There is absolutely no publicity in receiving or taking it. Full directions and a treatise accompany it. When you have read these you will fully understand your own case and be able to be your own doctor. The Von Mohl Company is known as the richest and largest importing firm of its kind in the world, and its standing in the commercial world is ample proof of its straightforward business methods.

"CALTHOS" is the discovery of Prof. Jules La-borde, the most famous chemist in France. Before the introduction of this wonderful vitalizer, Medical Science agreed that there was no specific for lost manhood and the various forms of sexual weakness.

"CALTHOS" CHANGED THIS OPINION.

"CALTHOS" reaches the seat of disease as no other remedy can do, acting directly on Nerves, Circulatory System and Mucous Membranes. If you are weakened

The Von Mohl Co. • 953 B, Largest Importers of Standard Preparations in the United States. Cincinnati, O.



by indulgences in youthful errors, excesses in later life, overwork and worry, remember that "CALTHOS" is a guaranteed cure in all stages of sexual weakness before epilepsy, consumption or insanity has set in.

"CALTHOS" brings new life and new vigor, puts healthy glowing blood in the veins and brings back the spry, elastic step, sparkling eye and pleasurable sensation of younger days. It will restore that superb manhood that is the admiration of men and women.

If you would have freedom from degrading weakness; if you would know health and happiness that comes from sturdy manhood, accept this offer to-day, bearing in mind that the "CALTHOS" department of the business is strictly confidential. Address,

OPA SPECIALTY CO., Dept. 10, CHICAGO

Your Fortune Told Free

Professor Edison, the Wizard of the Stars, will tell you just what your life contains what your success will be, whether you will be happy, and how to make your life a real success.

Every man, woman and child who reads this paper should write at once to Professor Edison, the most wonderful astrologer of modern times, who will give you, FREE of all charge, a very complete sketch of your life, your fortune and your characteristics. Professor Edison believes that his profession is one of the most important callings in life, enabling him to help men and women to make the most of their lives and win their full quota of happiness and wealth and success. He will read your life like an open book; he will tell you your past as well as your future.

He will tell you what your life contains of happiness and wealth, as well as grief and sorrow. The information he will give will enable you to make the most of your life and avoid the mistake which would cause you trouble; it will tell you what to expect in business, in love, in social life, and how to act so as to reach your ambitions.

Professor Edison is the most noted Astrologer living. He leaves you nothing to guess at. He tells you the truth as it exists and so you can understand it. Do not delay, but send him the date of your birth and a Two Cent stamp for return postage, and he will send you a FREE HOROSCOPE of your life by return mail. All you need do in return is to tell your friends about it. Address at once,

PROF. H. EDISON,
Dept. T, Binghamton, N. Y.

BIG MONEY selling Flavors, Perfumes. Credit. Agt. terms free. Herbe Agency Co., Box 554, Station L, New York.

WOMEN WANTED DO BENDING. \$9.00 week. Steady sent prepaid. Send stamped addressed envelope for particulars. Universal Co., Dept. 29, Walnut Street, Phila., Pa.

MORPHINE-OPIUM and LAUDANUM HABITS cured by a painless home treatment, endorsed and used by leading physicians. A TRIAL TREATMENT sufficient to convince you, sent FREE, with book of testimonials sealed. Correspondence Confidential.

OPA SPECIALTY CO., Dept. 10, CHICAGO
IS YOUR HUSBAND, SON, BROTHER OR FATHER A DRUNKARD?

Drunkard

If you send us your name and address with 4c to cover cost of postage, packing, etc., we will send you a package of our "Silent Cure" in a plain package, with full directions from us to give it success in tea, coffee, food, etc. It is odorless and tasteless, a will cure it quickly and permanently. Write to the patients knowledge or consent. It is a positive and permanent "Silent Cure" for the Drink Habit, and will cost you nothing to try it. Good for both sexes.

MILO DRUG CO., Dept. 19, St. Louis, Mo.

The Secret FREE

A Beautiful Bust and a Perfect Figure.

Full information how to develop the Bust 6 inches will be sent you free, in plain sealed package, also new Beauty Book, photos from life, and testimonials from many prominent society ladies, who have used this safe, sure and rapid method. Inclose stamp to pay postage. Address

AURUM CO., Dept. HB, 55 State St., CH



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

HATS constructed entirely of tissue paper sounds unpractical, but as a matter of fact they can be made in such a way as to stand the wear and tear of climate much better than those made of chiffon and tulle, which are worn nowadays on even the most ordinary occasions. The idea originated in the manual department of the public schools, where the girls are taught to braid tissue paper and to sew it together forming hats of various sizes and shapes. Out of this grew the fashion of making the paper hats form a part of the outfit of the children of the family, and this practical use of that which at first was only a plaything, became a really useful thing, and the fad grew, as such fads will grow, until few girls there are who do not possess at least one of these dainty creations. And it is not only confined to the children and girls, for the young lady sister does not scorn to wear them also.

These hats are built in exact imitation of the fashionable hats of the season. The tissue paper braided forms a very good imitation of the popular fancy braids, and if colors are harmoniously combined, a very pleasing effect is obtained. One distinct advantage in having these hats is that the cost is so slight that one may have a hat to wear with every suit, and it will be a great satisfaction to know that your hat cost only a few cents instead of several dollars. Tissue paper can be purchased for a penny a sheet, and from ten to twenty sheets are required for the hat according to the style.

The milliners complain that it is a great detriment to their trade. A down town milliner said to me the other day: "You would be surprised to know how much the paper hats are injuring my spring trade, especially in children and misses' hats;" and she added: "I am sure we will find the same difficulty all through the summer and even into the fall. Our hats are being copied by all the enterprising young people, and I cannot but admire the skill with which it is done. There is a copy of one of my spring hats now; just look at it and I will show you the original after she leaves the store." I looked and sure enough there was a dainty-looking lady wearing a hat in perfect imitation of one of Madame Armstrong's pattern hats. "She was in here the other day and examined this pattern hat," said Madam, "as I supposed with a view of buying it, but it seems that I was mistaken." It was really laughable to have such a timely illustration.

Our initial shows a picture of this selfsame hat. It is of black and dull red (old red) paper, two strands of black and one of red being braided for the foundation. The crown is high and very small, the brim very wide in front, with scarcely no brim at the back. Around

the crown is a band of red, with crossed ends pinned with a fancy pin. Directly in front is a large bow of red and black deftly combined. The whole is so simple, and yet

VIOLET HAT.

as the milliner said, so "chic".

Another hat is of white tissue paper. It has a Tam O'Shanter crown, with a wide, full brim. The fullness of the brim is made by a constant widening of the crown. No wire is used. The only trimming is a band of turquoise blue paper drawn tightly around the crown, and a very large bow of the same shade directly in front.

One hat is made of dark brown paper. It has a broad flat crown, with a wide, drooping brim. Around the crown is a band of pale yellow paper. On the left side is a full blown yellow rose, and drooping carelessly on the brim, slightly lower, is a half open bud of a darker shade.

A dainty confection is shown in the Violet hat, and a proud young miss of fifteen is the artist who constructed it. It is made entirely in the violet shades, and the little blonde is a picture for an artist in it.

The hat is of the palest violet. It has a low crown and a wide brim after the "shed-roof" style. The crown runs into the broad, drooping brim. Carelessly strewn on it are large bunches of violets—also of paper—some of lighter and some of darker shades.

The last hat shown is perhaps the most graceful of any of the group. It is of light tan, has a very small, low crown, and a wide half drooping brim. Around the crown is drawn tightly a band of dark pink, and a large bow of the same shade is placed directly in front. On the brim across the front are carelessly arranged four large American Beauty roses. At the left side, near the back are two more roses. Among the roses green leaves are scattered. The stems are of paper twisted tight, no wire being used. This hat has a bandage of pink and tan, so as to set the hat forward.

It is possible to copy any hat, but requires a certain amount of milliners' skill, or at least artistic taste. Many of the young ladies, taking the cue from "little sister," are constructing distracting affairs from this simple mate-



AMERICAN BEAUTY.

When you are suffering with Rheumatism in any form take "5-DROPS." It does not matter whether you have inflammatory, muscular or articular rheumatism, this remedy if taken as directed will give instant relief and effect an early and permanent cure. It rids the blood, tissues and joints of the uric acid and other poisonous matter which causes those intense rheumatic pains. This is the only way in which a cure can be effected.

You who suffer with those terrible shooting pains caused by Neuralgia, should use "5-DROPS." It removes all the pains with almost lightning rapidity and Neuralgia becomes only a memory of the past. For all bodily aches and pains "5-DROPS" is the best thing you can use. It acts like magic in all cases of sprains, aches or bruises, removing the inflammation and soreness in a wonderfully short time.

For all Liver Troubles and Kidney Diseases use "5-DROPS." A small dose of this remedy is more effectual and has more curative power than a barrel of other medicines where these diseases are concerned. It is the most successful medicine ever discovered for the Kidneys, Liver and Blood.

Indigestion or Bloating of the Stomach is not a very pleasant thing. Many a good meal has been untouched because of a poor digestion. All this can be easily avoided by taking "5-DROPS" occasionally. It overcomes and permanently cures Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Biliousness and helps the stomach and bowels in performing their duties properly. It is the most reliable blood purifier ever discovered, and a better medicine for the weak, aged and infirm than anything else, as it tones up the entire system, strengthening the nerves and muscles.

For Coughs and Colds, use "5-DROPS." By taking it at bedtime and in the morning before breakfast it will relieve and cure the most severe cough. It will break up a cold quicker than any other medicine, thereby preventing Bronchitis, Pneumonia, etc., which are the result of a cold not properly treated with the right remedy.

Catarrh and Asthma, those most distressing diseases, can be cured if you use "5-DROPS." Unlike almost any other remedy it is used internally and also inhaled, thus giving a thorough systemic treatment which affords early relief and effectually cures.

"5-DROPS" IS A NEVER FAILING CURE FOR

Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Lumbago, Sciatica, Asthma, Catarrh, Liver and Kidney Troubles, Nervousness, Backache, Dyspepsia, Gout, Indigestion, Croup, Nervous and Neuralgic Headache, Heart Weakness, Paralysis, Creeping Numbness, Sleeplessness and Blood Diseases. A Sure Cure for Coughs, Colds, La Grippe, and Bronchial Troubles.

All that is required to keep in perfect health is to have the disease germs removed, the blood purified and the nerves and muscles strengthened to normal condition. That is what "5-DROPS" does, and that is the reason why it will give immediate relief and cure so many different diseases. It is the one great remedy without a rival.

REMEMBER, "5-DROPS" is perfectly harmless and can be taken by a child as well as an adult. "5-DROPS" contains no opiates in any form. No alcohol. No salicylates to ruin the stomach or any drugs which only deaden the pain and never effect a cure.

FREE TO ALL. A trial bottle will be mailed free of charge to every reader of this paper who is a sufferer from any of the above named diseases. Cut out the coupon and send to us with your name and address.

Large Size Bottle (300 doses) for \$1.00. If it is not obtainable in your town order from us direct and we will send it prepaid. AGENTS WANTED. Write for terms.

SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., 160 LAKE STREET, CHICAGO.



rial. One displayed recently by a young lady was an exact imitation of a fifteen dollar hat shown in an up-town milliner's window, "And just think" she said proudly, "it only cost twenty-five cents."

We shall illustrate and describe some suggestions for new shirt waists, next month.

To All Comfort Juveniles, Greeting.

PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!!

COMFORT believes that among its thousands of juvenile readers are many who have the gift of writing, and in order to develop this talent, not only for COMFORT's benefit but for the benefit of those possessing the gift, we propose a plan herewith in which all who will may take a hand and receive a share if his merit is equal to it.

Therefore we offer as the first subject for all COMFORT readers, not over twenty-one years of age, "George Washington," and we want essays on this best known of Americans, or from one hundred to two hundred words. That is, an essay may not be less than one hundred nor more than two hundred words in length, and each essay is to be the best the writer can produce of his own writing. The merit of the essay will depend, and be judged upon its originality, its correct English, its correct spelling, its correct punctuation, its correct capitalization and its clearness of language and proper presentation of the subject. Each of these points will count so many, so that in this way the youngest and least experienced writer may have an equal chance with the older writers, who are not so painstaking as their younger competitors. Boys and girls are to be considered equally.

In order to make it an inducement for our juveniles to enter the contest a prize of \$2 will be offered for the best essay; \$1 for the second best; 50 cents for the third, and a yearly subscription to COMFORT for the fourth. As there are COMFORT readers in every state and territory in the Union and in British America, the writers from each state, territory and country will constitute a class and the writers in those classes will only have their own class to con-

tend against. This will make a wide distribution of prizes and enable writers everywhere to share in the benefits.

The winning essays, only, will be printed and announcements of winners will be made in the newspapers nearest the postoffices at which winners receive their COMFORTS, and prizes will be deposited with the postmasters at those offices.

These essays are to be in prose, but if any writer thinks he or she can present the subject better in poetry, he or she may do so, provided the poem is not over a dozen lines in length.

Address all communications to Essay Editor, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Take Notice: New subjects will be presented each month, and all essays must be sent in before the twenty-fifth of the month. Otherwise they will not be considered.

Odd Things Worth Knowing.

The Old Testament contains five thousand six hundred and forty-two different words.

Plaster of Paris is so called from having been obtained in the beginning from Montmartre, near Paris, France.

A milliner was originally a man, and was so called probably from Milan, a city in Italy, whence he imported female finery.

Wheat came originally from the central land of Tibet, in Asia, where its representative yet exists as grass with small mealy seeds.

The Chinese call a book "Shoo" and write it with two characters, one of which means "pencil" and the other "speak." A speaking pencil, so to speak.

Satin, both name and fabric, is of Chinese origin. The nearest approach which English type will enable us to make the Chinese pronunciation is sz-tun.

A fathom was originally the space between the tips of the middle fingers of a man's two hands, when the arms were extended horizontally. It is now legally fixed at six feet.

The word "hank" or "hanks," as applied to skeins of thread or yarn, is derived from the name of a Brabant manufacturer who came to England on the invitation of Edward III, in 1391.

It is generally believed that the first telescope was made by Zachary Janssen, a spectacle maker at Middleburg, England in 1590, though Bacon is

said to have invented it fifty years earlier.

It is erroneously believed that the word pickle is derived from the name of William Benkels of Bierfleit, Holland, the inventor of pickled herrings. The real origin is the Dutch word pekel, meaning brine.

Pianofortes were invented by Schroeder of Dresden in 1717. Square pianos were first made in Saxony in 1760. The first record of the use of one in England was in 1767. They were probably in use in America very soon after that.

Water has one property in which it differs from all other known substances—it expands under the influence of either heat or cold. It is at its greatest density at 40 degrees, and from this expands into steam at 212 and into ice at 32 degrees.

Isinglass is a corrupted form of the German name of the stung, *hausenblas*. It is made from the bladder of the sturgeon. It probably received its English name from some improper association with the word "icing" and the French "glace, ice."

Italics are letters formed after the Roman model, but sloping towards the right, used to emphasize words or sentences. They were first used about A.D. 1500 by Mantuus, a Venetian printer, who dedicated them to the Italian states; hence the name.

Punch, the name of the mixed drink so frequently used at all kinds of gatherings, was first made by the English, or introduced by them, and it is from the Hindustanee word *paunch*, meaning five, there being five ingredients in the mixture as first known.

The peculiar and agreeable odor of Russia leather is derived from the birch bark used in tanning it. This odor repels moths and other insects, and makes it valuable for book-binding, as a few books bound in Russia leather in a library will protect the remainder from insect attacks.

The common term used when calling a cat, or fondling or caressing one, is the ancient Gaelic and modern Irish name for the animal, which in those languages would be called a "puss." In England the cat is often called puss. The origin of the application of the name to so different an animal from that to which it legitimately belonged carries us back nearly to the time of the Norman Conquest of England, or about a thousand years. At that time, and for two or three generations afterwards, the fashionable language among the upper classes in England was a mixture of Latin and Norman-French. Amongst those who spoke pure Latin, the cat was called by its Latin name, *lepus*, which was perfectly correct. Others, probably, who spoke a jumble of both languages took the word to be Norman, and, supposing the first syllable to be the article *le*, converted *lepus* into *puss*.